Lynchings-1937
Cases of.

Alabama

5514

ALABAMA ORDERS LYNCHING INQUIRY

Telegraph

Sheriff Says He Knows One Member of Mob Which Killed Assault Suspect

2-3-37

HEADLAND, Ala., Feb. 2 (AP) — A strapping, 18-year-old Negro farm hand accused of assaulting a white woman, was lynched near here today, the nation's first lynching victim of 1937.

A sheriff's deputy found the bullet-marked body of the six-foot-tall Negro, Wes Johnson, swinging from a tree in a thicket. Several hours earlier 50 men stormed the Henry county jail at nearby Abbeville and seized the prisoner.

Sheriff Louis Corbett, who said he recognized some of the mob, indicated a special grand jury would be called to investigate. At Montgomery Governor Bibb Graves directed Attorney General A. A. Carmichael to conduct an inquiry.

"The attorney general is directed to file impeachment proceedings against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted," said the governor.

No Arrests Are Made

No arrests had been made tonight. Johnson was taken from Abbeville jail by the mob in about 25 automobiles.

Sheriff Corbett said he and his father, Jailor J. N. Corbett, were held prisoners until the mob forced the Negro's cell and drove away.

The sheriff said the Negro apparently was shot before he was hanged, not far from the place where the alleged attack occurred.

Johnson was arrested Sunday night, the day after a young matron reported she was attacked while entering her rural home alone.

NEGRO IS LYNCHED IN HENRY COUNTY

Abbeville Mob Drags Attack Suspect From Jail

2-2-37

ABBEVILLE, Feb. 2.—(Special.)—A mob of more than 100 took Wes Johnson, 22-year-old Negro, from Abbeville Jail last night and killed him. Johnson, a tenant farmer who lived near Tumbleton in Henry County, was charged with attempting to criminally attack Mrs. Robert Barnes, farm-wife.

The mob tore down the jail door when Jailer Bud Corbett refused to deliver up his prisoner.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
February 4, 1937

Armed Men Take Negro From Jail; Lynched In Southern End Of County

Attack White Woman In Home

State Highway Patrol Makes Investigation

The body of Wess Johnson, large eighteen year old negro farm hand of the Tumbleton community, was found in a wooded area between the Tumbleton and Newville communities his body riddled by bullets on last Tuesday morning. He was arrested last Sunday on a charge of having attacked a white matron in the Tumbleton community. Johnson was placed in jail at Abbeville after the arrest. A posse of men who arrived in twenty five automobiles, accoding to reports betwen midnight and two o'clock Monday night forced their way into the jail holding the sheriff, Louie Corbitt and the Jailor J. N. Corbitt, prisoners until the negro was placed in an automobile and hurried away. It is not known whether he was executed by hanging or whether he was killed as the result of gun shot.

Governor Graves ordered Attorney General A. A. Carmichel to make a special and thorough investigation and directed the State Highway Patrol to assist the attorney general in every way possible. It is reported that the Highway Patrol Chief, W. K. McAdory would investigate the case in person, aided by his assistants. So far no arrests have been made. According to information received this is the first lynching in the nation during the year of 1937, and the first in the State for four years.

Selma, Ala. Times
February 2, 1937

NEGRO LYNCHED BY MOB AT HEADLAND

Confessed Attacker Shot And Hanged From Tree After Jail Raid

HEADLAND, Ala., Feb. 2—(AP)—The body of Wes Johnson, huge 18-year-old negro farm hand of the Tumbleton community, was found hanging in a wooded section near here today after a posse of armed men took him from an Abbeville Ala., jail last night.

Authorities said Johnson was charged with attacking a young white matron.

Judge J. P. Mitchell of Henry County said at Abbeville reports he received were that about 25 cars, with an undetermined number of men, drove up to the jail last night and took the negro from the jailer.

The negro's body was riddled with bullets when found in the woods.

The girl victim, Judge Mitchell said, was the daughter of a farmer, living in the Tumbleton community where Wes Johnson worked on another farm.

Reports to him, he said, was that the girl was attacked while alone in her home. Johnson was arrested shortly after the alleged attack.

No arrests had been made in connection with the lynching, Judge Mitchell said.

Sheriff Louie Corbett of Headland said that the mob, of about 59 men held him and his Father Jailor J. N. Corbett prisoners until the negro's cell was forced and he was placed in automobile and driven away.

The alleged assault on the young matron took place Saturday. He eluded pursuit but was captured Sunday night and placed in jail where he reputedly confessed the outrage.

Miami, Fla. Herald
February 3, 1937

MOB IN ALABAMA HANGS PRISONER

Governor Graves Orders Inquiry Into Lynching

HEADLAND, Ala., Feb. 2. (AP)—Wes Johnson, 18-year-old negro farm hand accused of attacking a white woman, was lynched near here today, the nation's first lynching victim of 1937.

A sheriff's deputy found the bullet-marked body swinging from a tree in a thicket. Several hours earlier 50 men stormed the Henry county jail at near by Abbeville and seized the prisoner.

Sheriff Louis Corbett, who said he recognized some of the mob, indicated that a special grand jury would be called to investigate. At Montgomery Gov. Bibb Graves directed Attorney General A. A. Carmichael to conduct an inquiry.

"The attorney general is directed to file impeachment proceedings against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted," said the governor.

No arrests had been made tonight. Sheriff Corbett said he and his father, Jailer J. N. Corbett, were held prisoners until the mob forced the negro's cell and drove away.

Johnson was arrested Sunday night, the day after a young matron reported she was attacked while entering her rural home alone.

RACES

No. 1

Just after one midnight last week Sheriff Louis Corbitt of Henry County, Ala. and Jailer J. N. Corbitt, his father, asleep in their first-floor bedrooms below the rooms at Abbeville that serve as county jail, were awakened by a great racket outside. Before they could get up to investigate, a mob of 50 armed farmers burst in, ordered them to stay where they were. As sheriff and jailer sat abed looking sleepy-eyed into grim Henry County faces, part of the mob marched upstairs, broke into the jail. Going straight to the bull-pen occupied by six cowering blackamoors, they broke into it with a crowbar. From it they dragged strapping 18-year-old Wes Johnson, itinerant Henry County farm laborer, who had been arrested day before for raping the young wife of a farmer at Tumbleton, 22 mi. away. With Negro Johnson in tow the mob stomped out, drove off toward Tumbleton in 25 automobiles.

After day broke City Editor Joseph David ("Red") Brown of the Dothan *Eagle* received a telephone tip that Negro Johnson's body could be found near the Tumbleton farm home of Rupert Bond in which the alleged attack had taken place. Editor Brown grabbed his camera and dashed off for Tumbleton. There on the brink of a sparsely wooded ravine, 50 yd. from Farmer Bond's house, he found the bullet-riddled body of Negro Johnson. Tight-lipped farmers, who seemed to be awaiting his arrival, obligingly took hold of a rope that was tightly looped around the neck, hoisted the body high over the limb of a tree so that Editor Brown could make a more vivid camera record of 1937's No. 1 lynching.*

At last week's end Henry County was buzzing with excitement. A special grand jury, on orders of Governor Bibb Graves began taking testimony. Sheriff Corbitt threatened with impeachment by Governor Graves, was quoted as saying he could and would name the owners of no less than 15 of the faces his sleepy eyes recognized in his bedroom. Nevertheless, the grand jury did not indict after hearing Sheriff Corbitt's testimony.

CHICAGO (ILL.) TRIBUNE
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1937

LYNCH ALABAMA YOUTH JAILED IN ATTACK ON GIRL

Headland, Ala., Feb. 2.—[Special.]—The bullet pierced body of Wes Johnson, colored farm youth accused of raping a white girl, was found

...tly reported a sharp de... lynchings, said Johnson's ... the first lynching in the ... year

...hanging in a woods near here today prisoners until Johnson's cell door... cline in lynch...
...a few hours after a group of armed ... was forced open.
...men took him out of the jail at ... Judge J. P. Mitchell said the 18 ... death was the
Abbeville, Ala. ... year-old youth was accused of raping ... nation this year.
Sheriff Louis Corbett said about ... the daughter of a farmer while she
fifty men, who drove up in a caval... was alone in her home in the Tumble...
cade of twenty-five cars, held him ... ton community.
and his father, Jailor J. N. Corbett. Tuskegee Institute statisticians.

Arkansas.

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REPORTED AS A LYNCHING IN 1936 REPORT.
"FOUND ALIVE"

MISSING SHARECROPPER FOUND ALIVE IN NORTH

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 18.—(AP) Controversy over the disappearance of Frank Weems, 46-year-old Arkansas negro sharecropper, last June 9, was reawakened today with announcement by J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, that Weems had been "found alive" in Chicago. Cmunder

"We are glad that our fears as to Weems' death proved untrue," he said. "We have never ceased trying to find out what really happeend to him." 5-19-37

When Weems disappeared, H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the tenant farmer union, charged he had been beaten by planters near Early, Ark. He announced plans for a "funeral," after he said he heard Weems was dead.

Sharecropper Asks $25,000 for Beating

CHICAGO, May 19. — (AP) — Counsel for Frank Weems, 56-year-old negro, prepared a $25,000 damage suit today against six men whom the Arkansas sharecropper accused of beating him for his activity with the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union.

Weems, whose reported death at the hands of floggers nearly a year ago, roused a storm of protest from union sympathizers, appeared in the office of Attorney Francis Heisler yesterday with a member of the Workers' Defense League.

Weems described the beating in an affidavit which Heisler said would be sent to the La Follette civil liberties committee in Washington. The damage suit, the attorney said, will be filed in federal court here.

The affidavit said the attack took place June 8, 1936, shortly after Weems had warned union members against meeting for a demonstration march through Earle, Ark.

WEEMS FOUND, SAYS HE
WAS DRIVEN FROM ARKANSAS

Crusader news agency 5-24-37

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May-- (CNA)- The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union announced this week that Frank Weems, Negro member who disappeared June 9, 1936, has been found alive in Chicago. The union charged that Weems was driven from Arkansas under threat of death. New York, May

Willie Sue Blagden, a white Memphis social worker, and the Rev. Claude Williams, white, of Little Rock, Ark., were flogged by a band of white planters when they went to Earle, Ark., seeking proof of Weem's death. Miss Blagden susequently filed a damage suit against several Arkansas planters.

Weems disappeared while carrying out union activities and it was assumed that the planters had added another victim to their long list.

Missing Arkansas Sharecropper Found

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Frank Weems, Arkansas sharecropper whose reported death a year ago caused the flogging of a white woman and a preacher of the same race as well as a federal investigation, is in Chicago. And if he has his way about it, he will never return to Arkansas.

Weems' "reincarnation" was under auspices of the Workers' Defense League last Tuesday. Two weeks previously he appeared at headquarters of the Illinois Workers' alliance which took him to the league and to Attorney Francis Heisler, white, who produced him for the press last week.

The former cropper said he was beaten on June 8, 1936, by cotton planters for his activities in the Southern Tenant Farmers Union which was staging a cotton choppers' strike at that time. Immediately after warning union members near Earle, Ark., not to meet for a demonstration march because of threats he had heard, he was halted on the street by five carloads of men who stopped him and asked a lot of questions.

"They said they were going to kill me," he declared. "One of the men knocked me down twice. Then the others started beating me and I lost consciousness."

He hid in the woods near Earle for a week, then began traveling North stopping at Memphis, Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Alton, Ill.

During the months Weems was missing, the union and its sympathizers charged he had been flogged to death while the sheriff of that area declared he was in the custody of officials and will be produced at the proper time." The union accused planters and officials of terrorism to keep workers at low wages and discourage union activities.

PREACHER ATTACKED

Miss Willie Sue Blagden, white, former Memphis social worker, and the Rev. Claude Williams, white, an Arkansas minister, were beaten when they went to Earle to investigate reports of Weems' death. Since then damage suits have been filed against the county by the whipping victims.

It was at this time that Paul Peacher, city marshal of Earle, made wholesale arrests and forced his prisoners to work for him without pay which resulted in his conviction and a $3,000 fine for slavery last November.

Weems has signed an affidavit setting forth his charges of maltreatment. Atty. Heisler asserted a copy had been sent to the La Follette civil liberties committee in Washington and added he would file suit for $25,000 against the floggers in federal court in Chicago.

Said Weems, who is 56 and has a wife and eight children in Arkansas, "I'll never go back to Arkansas 'cause they'll kill me if I do."

Arkansas Cropper Frank Weems Says He Won't Go Back

TELLS STORY

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Frank Weems, Arkansas sharecropper whose reported death a year ago caused the flogging of a white woman and a preacher of the same race as well as a federal investigation, is in Chicago. And if he has his way about it, he will never return to Arkansas.

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Weems has signed an affidavit setting forth his charges of maltreatment. Atty. Heisler asserted tests to determine for what type of work they were best fitted.

Of those placed, 127 of the boys and 50 of the girls had worked before, while 16 boys and 17 girls had never before found any type of employment. Some had ever been on a copy had been sent to the La Follette civil liberties committee in Washington and added he would file suit for $25,000 against the floggers in federal court in Chicago.

Said Weems, who is 56 and has wife and eight children in Arkansas, "I'll never go back to Arkansas 'cause they'll kill me if I do."

Lynchings-1937
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Deland, Fla. Democrat
July 23, 1937

MOB LYNCHES TWO NEGROES AT STATE CAPITAL TUESDAY

Small Band of Men Take Prisoners From Jail—Riddled with Bullets

GOVERNOR ANGRY

"This Was Not a Lynching, It Was Murder," Said Cone

Four men with paper sacks over their heads entered the city police headquarters at Tallahassee about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning and forced the night sergeant to open the door of a cell in the city-county jail and deliver to them two negroes, Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, each about 18 years old, and who were charged with stabbing Policeman Kelly of that city and who is in a hospital seriously wounded.

About daylight the bodies were found about 3 miles east of Tallahassee riddled with bullets.

When Governor Cone was informed of the killings he said: "I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody. This was not a lynching. It was murder. I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

Officer Fairbanks said the four men came into police headquarters, poked a gun to his back and said:

"We want the jail keys and we don't want any foolishness".

"I got up and gave them to them", said Fairbanks.

The officers searched several hours for the negroes and the captors. Later a negro woman telephoned them and said she found the negro youths' bodies under oak trees just off the Jacksonville-Tallahassee highway. Officers said the bodies were lying about 20 feet apart. Signs left near the bodies read, "His last crime". "This is the beginning, who is next", "This is your warning"; "Negroes, remember you may be next"; "Warning, this is what will happen to all negroes that harm white people."

Governor Cone will have a special investigation made.

The sheriff said Fairbanks was gagged and bound and left in a cell block.

State Attorney Parker and Sheriff Stoutamire said they had started an investigation of the double killing.

"We're going to investigate this thing as far as we can. We're trying to get the parties who are responsible for it", said Attorney Parker.

Columbia, S. C., Free Press
July 23, 1937

Two Negr[illegible]hed For Stabb[illegible]oliceman

The bodies of two Negroes were found on a highway outside the city of Tallahassee, Florida this week. The pair was arrested Sunday on the charge of stabbing Policeman V. F. Kelly when he attempted to question them about breaking into a restaurant. Kelly was stabbed seven times and is in a serious condition. Assistane Chief of Police W. L. Prater said the only information he had was that the Negroes were missing from the jail and later their bodies were found in a ditch along the highway.

This is the first lynching in Florida this year and the first double lynching in several years.

5 HOODED MEN SEIZE, LYNCH NEGRO PRISONER

MILTON, Fla., Oct. 4.—(AP)—Five hooded men, halting Sheriff Joe Allen, of Santa Rosa County on a midnight drive, seized a negro prisoner and shot him to death on a highway.

The negro, 30-year-old J. C. Evans, was charged with a "crime against nature" involving an attack on a 12-year-old white boy, and with robbing a filling station. He was being brought here for trial today. It was Florida's third lynching and the south's eighth this year.

Body Cast in Ditch

Prisoner Was on Way to Trial on Robbery Charge

MILTON, Fla.—Five masked men snatched J. C. Evans, 30, from a sheriff at midnight, Sunday, as the prisoner was en route to trial, riddled him with buckshot and pistol bullets.

The body of Evans, accused of armed robbery and assaulting a white boy, was found sprawled in a ditch near Crestview on Monday morning.

The lynching was Florida's third for the year and the South's eighth.

Usual Verdict Given

After an investigation, a coroner's jury returned a verdict that Evans came to his death at the hands of "parties unknown." Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa County told the jury that neither he nor his deputy, Aubrey Martin, recognized any members of the mob.

The sheriff said that he and the deputy had driven to Panama City, Fla., to get Evans, who had been held there in safeguard him against "high feeling."

He was on the way back with Evans on the front seat of his machine, the sheriff testified when near Fort Walton, a car passed his auto and then forced him to stop.

Five men wearing black hoods covered him and the deputy with pistols, he said.

"We want that n——r," the sheriff said the men told him.

The hooded men took Evans and Sheriff Allen in their machine down the road about a mile. They put out the sheriff. About three miles from where the men took Evans, officers found his body.

In Tallahassee, Gov. F. P. Cone ordered an investigation. Two youths were taken from a jail in the shadow of the State Capitol at Tallahassee and lynched in September. Governor Cone ordered an investigation in that case, but nothing has ever come of it.

on a 12-year-old white boy and with robbing a filling station. He was being brought here for trial today.

It was Florida's third lynching and the South's eighth this year.

A coroner's jury at Crestview, Fla., said the Negro met "death at the hands of a party or parties unknown."

In Tallahassee Governor Fred P. Cone ordered a complete investigation.

Sheriff Allen told the jury he and Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Martin drove to Panama City, Fla., last night to get the Negro, who had been held in jail there to safeguard him against "high feeling."

Near midnight, Allen testified, a car forced his automobile to stop and five men wearing black hoods covered him and Deputy Martin with guns.

"We want that nigger,' the sheriff said the men told him.

The hooded men took Allen and the Negro into their automobile and drove down the road about a mile. Then they put Allen out of the car and handed him the keys to his own automobile. The Sheriff walked back to his car and drove to Milton.

About three miles from the spot where the men took the Negro, the Sheriff said, he and Martin found the prisoner's body sprawled on the edge of the road. The Negro had been riddled with buckshot and hit several times with pistol bullets.

Sheriff Allen said neither he nor Martin recognized any of the five hooded men.

HOODED MEN LYNCH NEGRO IN FLORIDA

Five Halt Sheriff's Car at Midnight, Seize Prisoner and Drive Off With Him

VICTIM FOUND SHOT DEAD

Was on Way to Trial for 'Crime Against Nature'—Governor Orders an Investigation

MILTON, Fla., Oct. 4 (AP).—Five hooded men, halting Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa County on a midnight drive, seized a Negro prisoner and shot him to death.

The Negro, 30-year-old J. C. Evans, was charged with a "crime against nature" involving an attack

ANOTHER LYNCHING IN FLORIDA

Again this year the good name of Florida and of the South is dragged into the dirt because four men have taken it upon themselves to act as judge, prosecutor, jury and executioner. A Negro was taken Sunday night from a sheriff of Santa Rosa County and riddled with buckshot.

Another grim story of men contemptuous of the law and unaware of the rights of every individual, however lowly or detestful that individual might be. The Negro who was murdered had not been proved guilty of any crime. Who knows but that he was innocent?

The authorities in Florida owe it to themselves and to law and order to bring to justice the four men who violated the law Sunday night. Men who commit lynchings must be shown that their acts will not be tolerated.

FLORIDA MOB RIDDLES MAN WITH BULLETS

Victim Handed Over By Sheriff While On Way To County Jail

MILTON, Fla., Oct. 8—Florida took the lead in lynchings this week when J. C. Evans, 30 years old, was handed over to a mob while being taken to the county jail by Sheriff Joe Allen.

Evans' body, riddled with bullets was found in ditch near Crestview Monday morning. The lynching was the third within ten months in this state.

Evans, charged with having robbed the owner of a filling station and attacking a white boy, told police he was guilty. Despite his pleas he was arrested and being taken to the jail when the mob took him from the sheriff.

As is the usual custom, a coroner's jury returned a verdict stating that Evans met his death at the hands of unknown parties.

Hooded Band Slays Negro

Killing Of Prisoner In Florida Listed As Lynching

MILTON, FLA., Oct. 4—(AP)—Five hooded men, halting Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa County on a midnight drive, seized a negro prisoner and shot him to death on a highway.

The negro, 30-year-old J. C. Evans was charged with an attack on a 12-year-old white boy, and with robbing a filling station. He was being brought here for trial today.

It was Florida's third lynching and the South's eighth this year.

A coroner's jury at Crestview, Fla. said the negro met death at the hands of a party or parties unknown.

In Tallahassee Governor Fred P. Cone ordered a complete investigation. State Attorney E. Dixie Beggs, Jr., of Pensacola said "we are doing all we can to solve this thing.

Sheriff Allen told the jury he and Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Martin drove to Panama City, Fla., last night to get the negro who had been held in jail there "six or eight weeks" to safeguard him against "high feeling."

Near midnight, Allen testified, a car forced his automobile to stop and five men wearing black hoods covered him and Deputy Martin with guns.

"We want that nigger," the sheriff said the men told him.

Leaving the deputy in the sheriff's car, the hooded men took Allen and the negro into their automobile and drove down the road about a mile. Then they put Allen out of the car and handed him the keys to his own automobile. The sheriff walked back to his car and drove to Milton.

About three miles from the spot where the men took the negro, the sheriff said, he and Martin found the prisoner's body sprawled on the edge of the road. The negro had been riddled with buckshot and hit several times with pistol bullets.

Sheriff Allen said neither he nor Martin recognized any of the five hooded men.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
October 5, 1937

5 HOODED MEN LYNCH NEGRO IN NORTH FLORIDA

Take Prisoner From Santa Rosa Sheriff

MILTON, Oct. 4—(Associated Press) Five hooded men took a negro prisoner from Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa county during the night and shot the negro to death on a highway near Fort Walton in neighboring Okaloosa county.

The negro, 30-year-old J. C. Evans, was to have been tried here today on a charge of criminally attacking a 12-year-old white boy and robbing a filling station.

It was Florida's third lynching of the year and the eighth in the south during 1937.

A coroner's jury at Crestview said the negro met "death at the hands of a party or parties unknown."

Cone Orders Probe

From his office in Tallahassee Governor Cone ordered a complete investigation with full punishment for the guilty parties. State Attorney E. Dixie Beggs, jr., of Pensacola, said: "We are doing all we can to solve this thing."

Sheriff Allen told the jury he and Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Martin drove to Panama City last night to get the negro who had been held in the Bay county jail there "six or eight weeks" to safeguard him against "high feeling."

Near midnight, Allen testified, a car forced his automobile to stop and five men wearing black hoods covered him and Deputy Martin with guns.

"We want that nigger," the sheriff said the men told him.

Leaving the deputy in the sheriff's car, the hooded men took Allen and the negro into their automobile and drove down the road about a mile. Then they put Allen out of the car and handed him the keys to his own automobile. The sheriff walked back to his car.

Find Negro's Body

Allen said he and Martin drove here immediately. About three miles from the spot where the men took the negro. The sheriff said, he and Martin found the prisoner's body sprawled on the edge of the road. The negro had been riddled with buckshot and hit several times with pistol bullets.

Allen testified he telephoned Sheriff John P. Steele of Crestview who, with County Judge Wilbur Osborne summoned a coroner's jury and went to the scene.

Sheriff Allen said neither he nor Deputy Martin recognized any of the five hooded men. He insisted he believed no one in Milton knew of his plan to transfer the prisoner here last night.

The Tuskegee, Ala., institute said in addition to Florida's three lynchings this year there have been two in Mississippi and one each in Alabama Georgia and Tennessee.

De Funiak Springs, Fla., Breeze
October 7, 1937

NEGRO MAN LYNCHED IN OKALOOSA COUNTY

J. C. Evans, a negro, who had been convicted of armed robbery in Bay county, and who was being taken to Milton by Sheriff Allen, of Santa Rosa county, for trial for assaulting a white boy and robbing a filling station, was taken from the sheriff near Fort Walton and shot to death, Sunday night.

Sheriff Allen said he and a deputy were held up by five masked white men armed with shot guns and revolvers, and the negro taken from them. Later the body of the negro was found on the edge of the road. Sheriff Allen said no one knew of his intended trip after the negro, but his deputy was not a witness before the coronor's jury which returned a verdict of death at the hands of unknown parties.

Crestview, Fla., News-Journal
October 8, 1937

LYNCHING ENQUIRY STARTED

Negro Is Taken From Santa Rosa Sheriff, Filled With Shot

Identity of five hooded men who Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa county said took a negro prisoner from him and later lynched the negro on a highway near the Okaloosa-Santa Rosa county line, near midnight Sunday, has not been learned.

The negro, J C Evans, 30, was being taken from the Panama City jail to Milton to stand trial on a charge of criminally assaulting a 12-year-old white boy and robbing a filling station.

Sentenced to Life Term

Evans, who had been convicted of armed robbery by a circuit court jury in Panama City last Saturday and sentenced to life imprisonment, was scheduled to have gone on trial early this week.

It was Florida's third lynching of the year and the eighth in the South during 1937.

Sheriff Allen was the only witness before the Crestview coroner's jury Monday. He declared that he and Deputy Aubrey Martin drove to Panama City Sunday night to get the negro.

They left the Bay county jail with Evans at 10:45 o'clock that night. On the highway from Fort Walton to Milton around midnight Sheriff Allen said a car forced his automobile to stop and five men wearing black hoods covered him and Deputy Martin with guns.

"We want that nigger," the sheriff said the men told him. Two of the men had shotguns and two had revolvers, Allen said.

The Santa Rosa sheriff said the group took him and the negro into their car and drove about a mile down the road. Then they put Allen out of the car, and handed him his keys to his car, he said. The sheriff said he walked back to his car and that he and Martin drove in the direction taken by the hooded men.

About three miles from the spot where the men took the negro, the sheriff said, he and Martin found the prisoner's body sprawled on the edge of the road. The negro had been riddled with buckshot, Allen said.

Jury Goes to Scene

Allen said he and Martin immediately went to Milton and that he phoned Sheriff John P Steele of Crestview, who with County Judge Wilbur Osburn summoned a coroner's jury and went to the scene.

Sheriff Steele stated that the coroner's jury held an autopsy and found buckshot but no pistol bullets in the negro's body. He said Sheriff Allen declared he could not identify any of the men in the group that took the negro.

Sheriff Allen insisted that no one in Milton knew of his plans to transfer Evans to Milton Sunday night.

From his office in Tallahassee Governor Fred P Cone ordered a complete investigation with full punishment for the guilty parties. State Atterney E Dixie Beggs, Jr, of Pensacola, went to Crestview to investigate and later declared "we are doing all we can to solve this thing."

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GOVERNOR CONE IS ANGERED BY TUESDAY DEED, SAYS PROSECUTION LOOMING

Boys, Each About 18 Years Old, Are Taken From Jail At State Capital By Four Unidentified Men And Slain

ACCUSED OF POLICE STABBING

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—(SNS)—Charged with stabbing a local policeman, two colored youths, Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, each about 18 years old, were taken from jail here early Tuesday, July 20, and riddled with bullets by four unidentified white men. Just after daylight, their bodies were found on the edge of the Tallahassee-Jacksonville highway, fully three and one-half miles east of the Floridit state capitol.

Immediately upon learning of the gruesome double lynching, Governor Fred P. Cone said, "I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody This was not a lynching. It was murder. I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

Sheriff Stoutamire received prompt instructions from Governor Cone and State Attorney Orion C. Parker, Jr., to make a thorough probe and report to him.

The sheriff said he was told that four men with paper sacks over their heads entered the city police headquarters around three o'clock in the morning and forced Harry Fairbanks, night sergeant, to accompany them to the combination city-county jail and deliver the two youths. The boys had been arrested as suspects in a Sunday, July 18, bugiary attempt on a store, who had stabbed and seriously wounded Policeman V. F. Kelley when he attempted to take them unto custody. Officer Kelly is in a critical condition in a hospital here at the present time.

After Sheriff Stoutamire mentioned what had been told of what took place, the observation was made that the city police department had access to the keys to the jail without calling up the county at night.

Fairbanks, according to Stoutamire, was bound and gagged and left in the building. Robert Maige, the county jailer, who says he was sleeping in the jail building, said he was awakened by Fairbanks' calls for help after the band of unidentified men had left with the colored boys. He said he found him locked in the cell block.

According to Stoutamire, Fairbanks told him he had been "stuck up" by one of the four men, none of whom he recognized, and ordered to deliver the prisoners. Fairbanks had been under a physician's care because of high blood pressure, the sheriff stated, and, as a result of the episode, was in such bad shape that a doctor had ordered him to bed with instructions that no one disturb him.

It was pointed out that, after the arrest of the two boys, little had happened or seemed to indicate that a mob violence was likely. However, it was stated that special orders had been given to keep strict vigilance over any and all persons visiting the premises.

It was not until shortly after 3 o'clock Tuesday morning, Sheriff Stoutamire reported, that notification of the seizure was received. He said he and his deputy meandered various parts of the city but found nothing. But, upon their return to the jail, he said, a call came from a colored woman who said she had found the youths' bodies sprawled near a clump of trees on a seldom-used side road less than a hundred feet off the main highway.

Judge W. May Walker, county Judge, said the bodies were about twenty feet apart on the ground and that each had been shot fifteen or twenty times with bullets. It looked like somebody stood about fifteen feet away and shot them. Judging from the position of the bodies, it appeared that somebody may have held one man and made him watch while they shot the other one."

Painted cards were found, which read: "His last crime"; "This is the beginning, who is next?"; "This is your Warning"; "Negroes, remember, you may be next"; and "Warning, this is what will happen to all Negroes that harm white people.'

A coroner's jury was called to review the bodies by Judge Walker, but it was recessed until further notice.

The twin tragedy was the initial lynching of 1937 for this state and its first double lynching since some years.

FLORIDA NEGROES, TAKEN FROM JAIL, FOUND LYNCHED

Mystery Surrounds Abduction Of Two Youths From Tallahassee Cell

7-20-37

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— (AP) —Assistant Chief of Police W. L. Prater said two young Negroes charged with the stabbing of a Tallahassee policeman were lynched by unidentified persons early today.

Prater said the only information he had was that the Negroes were missing from the jail and that their bodies had been found on a highway outside the city.

The two Negroes were arrested Sunday on a charge of stabbing Policeman V. F. Kelly when he attempted to question them about breaking into a restaurant. Kelly, stabbed seven times, is in a serious condition in a hospital here.

The bodies were found after daylight, close by a clump of oak trees a short distance off the Jacksonville Highway about 3½ miles from the state capitol. The bodies still were beside the road an hour after they were found.

This was first lynching in Florida this year and the first double lynching in several years.

Eugene Ward, a city policeman, said he heard the Negroes were shot to death.

Ward said he didn't know any particulars about how the two were taken from the city-county jail.

Sheriff Frank Stoutamire was out of his office and could not be reached.

Ward said he understood the two men were taken from the jail about 3 a.m.

The victims were listed at police headquarters as Richard Gawkins and Ernest Ponder, each about 18.

Warrants charging them with assault to murder Policeman Kelly were issued yesterday after police said they confessed stabbing the officer.

Police officials who were on duty last night were away from headquarters this morning.

City police place their prisoners in the county-city jail and have access to it at all times to lock up prisoners they arrest.

There were reports that a band of men entered police headquarters early today and forced an officer to accompany them at gun point to the county jail and get the two Negroes out of their cells.

The men were reported to have bound the policeman and left him in the jail building, departing without arousing the jail custodian.

The officer was quoted by some as saying the men wore masks and that he did not recognize any of them.

State Atty. Orion C. Parker, Jr., said "we're going to investigate this thing as far as we can. We're trying to get the parties who are responsible for it."

TWO NEGROES TAKEN FROM JAIL, LYNCHED

Pair Shot To Death In Florida After Officer Is Stabbed

7-21-37

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 20.—(INS)—Two youthful negroes, held for the stabbing of a Tallahassee policeman, were taken from the jail here today by four masked men, escorted from the city and shot to death about three and one-half miles east of here.

The victims were Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, both about 19 years old. They were arrested Sunday in connection with the stabbing of Officer V. F. Kelley, who was critically wounded by two negroes whom he had arrested for breaking into a building. Both admitted being at the scene, but each blamed the other for the crime, officers said.

The four men who seized the negroes at the jail forced Policeman Harry Fairbanks to unlock the outside door of the jail and then open the cell block where the negroes were kept.

After dragging the two negroes from their cells, the men tied Fairbanks in the cell. As the men left the jail, Fairbanks set up a cry that brought aid from other officers.

The bullet-riddled bodies of the two negroes were found some time later as officers searched the countryside for the prisoners and their abductors.

TWO NEGRO YOUTHS LYNCHED IN FLORIDA

Four Masked White Men Take Them From Jail Near Capitol in Tallahassee

BODIES FOUND RIDDLED

7-21-37

Police Sergeant Forced to Open the Cells of Prisoners Held in Stabbing of Officer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 20 (AP).—Four masked white men took two Negro youths from the county

jail, four blocks from the Capitol, and shot them to death early today.

The Negroes, Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, each about 18, had been held on a charge of stabbing Policeman V. F. Kelly Sunday when he attempted to question them about breaking into a store. Kelly is in serious condition at a hospital.

"This was not a lynching—it was murder," said Governor Fred P. Cone when he learned of the case. "I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

Sheriff Frank Stoutamire said four men, wearing paper sacks over their heads, forced Night Police Sergeant Harry Fairbanks to accompany them to the county jail.

Sergeant Fairbanks declared that the four—"two stout men and two short men"—entered police headquarters about 3 A. M., poked a gun to his back and said:

"We want the jail keys and we don't want any foolishness."

"I got up and gave them to them," Sergeant Fairbanks added.

Unlocked Six Doors

He said that the men forced him to accompany them to the jail and open the six doors necessary to get from the outside to the cells. Then they tied his arms and gagged him, he asserted, and left him locked in a cell block.

County Jailer Robert Maige slept through all this, Sheriff Stoutamire reported, but was awakened by Fairbanks' calls for help. The Police Department uses the county jail and has its own keys, the Sheriff explained.

The Sheriff asserted that he and his deputies searched for hours for the Negroes and their captors, but found nothing of their whereabouts until a Negro woman telephoned that she had found the bodies under oak trees about 100 feet off the main Jacksonville-Tallahassee highway, three and a half miles out of town.

The bodies were about 20 feet apart. The officers there were fifteen to twenty bullet holes in each body. Five crudely printed placards, with some of the letters "S" backward, marked the scene of the double slaying. The signs read:

"His last crime." "This is the beginning, who is next." This is your warning." "Negros, remember you may be next." "Warning, this is what will happen to all Negroes that harm white people."

Tuskegee Institute records showed four persons previously slain by mobs in the United States this year. There were eight lynchings in 1936.

Wagner to Press Bill

WASHINGTON, July 20 (AP).—Senator Wagner said today that he planned to seek Senate action on his Anti-Lynching Bill when the court reform fight was settled.

The measure, similar to one passed by the House, has been on the Senate calendar since it was approved June 21 by the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Wagner declared that he and Senator Van Nuys, co-author of the Senate proposal to impose Federal penalties on officials who fail to protect their prisoners from mobs, were confident it will be enacted this year.

"We have the votes to pass it," he said.

BULLETS ARE USED TO LYNCH NEGROES

Bodies of Two Stabbing Prisoners Riddled.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 20. (AP)—Four unidentified white men took two Negroes from the county jail, four blocks from the state capitol and riddled their bodies with bullets a short distance east of here early today.

The negroes, Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, each about 18 years old, were being held on a charge of stabbing Policeman V. F. Kelly Sunday morning when he attempted to question them about breaking into a store. Kelly is in a serious condition at a hospital here.

"This was not a lynching—it was murder," Governor Fred P. Cone said when he learned of the case. "I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody. I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

WAGNER SEEKS ACTION ON ANTI-LYNCHING ACT

WASHINGTON, July 20.—(AP)—Senator Wagner, Democrat, New York, said today he planned to seek senate action on his anti-lynching bill when the court reform fight was settled.

The measure, similar to one passed by the house, has been on the senate calendar since it was approved June 21 by the judiciary committee.

Moulton, Ala., Advertiser
July 22, 1937

Two Negroes Lynched By Mob In Florida

Reports reaching here from Tallahasse, Florida, says two young negroes charged with the stabbing of a Tallahassee policeman were lynched by unidentified persons early Wednesday.

The bodies were found after daybreak close by a clump of oak trees a short distance off the Jacksonville

Two Lynched In Florida On Charge Of Stabbing Cop

1937 Lynch Toll--No. 6

—And this number doesn't include those killed by individuals and not reported. Florida now joins Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia in the 1937 lynching parade. And the anti-lynching bill still is far from being a law.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 23—(Special)—Florida added its name to the lynch column Monday when two members of the Race, accused of having stabbed a policeman, were lynched just a mile away from the state capitol. The victims were Richard Gawkins and Ernest Ponder, both 18 years of age.

Their nude bodies bearing burns and scars were found in a ditch right on the highway leading to the capital. This marked Florida's first lynching of the year and the first double lynching in several years.

News of the brutal murder of the two men caused police citizens here to start letters and telegrams to northern Senators asking their aid in the passage of the anti-lynch bill which now seems to be periled following the death of Senator Joseph Robinson, Senate majority leader of Arkansas.

The announcemenet of the lynching was made by Assistant Chief of Police W. L. Prater, who said that the crime was committed by parties "unknown" to police.

Highway about 3½ miles from the state capitol.

This was the first lynching in Florida this year and the first double lynching in several years.

Quincy, Fla., Times
July 22, 1937

Negroes Lynched In Leon County

Two Who Confessed Stabbing Police Officer Taken From Jail and Riddled With Bullets Tuesday Morning.

Investigation is being made by state, county and city authorities of Tallahassee into the lynching early Tuesday morning of two 18-year-old negroes, who were taken from the Leon county jail and whose bodies were later found on a side road leading off State Road No. 1 three miles east of the capital. The negroes had confessed to the stabbing of City Patrolman V. F. Kelly when he surprised them in a store robbery early Sunday morning.

Patrolman Kelly, well known here where he formerly played second base on the Faceville, Ga., baseball team, is in a Tallahassee hospital in a serious condition.

The negroes were taken from the new Leon county jail after four masked men forced Police Officer Harry Fairbanks at the police station to deliver to them keys to a strong box in the jail where the keys to the cell block were locked. At the point of a pistol he was made to accompany them to the jail and give up the keys, after which he was bound, gagged and locked in a cell while the unidentified men left with the negroes.

Apparently Hawkins and Ponder, the negro youths, were hurried to the site of the lynching, released and shot while running. Their bodies, riddled with bullets, were found the following morning lying about 20 feet apart in the middle of a side road. On the bank of the side of the road were found placards lettered in green ink which read:

"His last crime."

"This is the beginning, who is next."

"This is your warning."

"Negroes remember you may be next."

"Warning, this is what will happen to all negroes that harm white people."

When advised of the lynching Tuesday Governor Cone said:

"I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody. This was not a lynching. It was murder. I'm going to prosecute everybody we get to the limit of the law."

State Attorney Orien C. Parker and Sheriff Frank Stoutamire were instructed by the governor to have a special investigation made at once and report to him. A coroner's jury was impaneled, but after a three-hour session Tuesday afternoon adjourned upon call of the county judge.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 25, 1937

Two Lynched in Florida.

TWO NEGRO YOUTHS, about 18 years of age, were taken from the county jail, four blocks from the Florida State capitol, and riddled with bullets about 100 feet from the main Jacksonville-Tallahassee highway early Tuesday morning.

"This was not a lynching, it was murder," said Governor Fred P. Cone when he learned of the lynching. "I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

The young negroes had been held in jail on a charge of stabbing a policeman Sunday when he attempted to question them about breaking into a store. The officer was in a serious condition when the lynching occurred, but not dead.

Sheriff Stoutamire said four men, wearing paper sacks over their heads, forced Night Police Sergeant Fairbanks to accompany them to the county jail. Fairbanks reported that the four men entered police headquarters about 3 A. M., poked a gun to his back and said: "We want the jail keys, and we don't want any foolishness," whereupon he said he gave them the keys.

He said the men then forced him to accompany them to the jail, open the six doors necessary to get from the outside to the cells, then tied him and gagged him and locked him in a cell block. Fairbanks' calls for help awakened County Jailer Maige, but it was too late.

The bodies of the negroes were found hours later, bullet ridden.

LYNCHINGS- 1937 GEORGIA

5519

CASES OF.
Reference:
SEE: LYNCHINGS: SIDE LIGHTS (GEORGIA)

NEGRO SLAIN BY
DEPUTIES IN
ESCAPE EFFORT.

HAD CONFESSED
MURDER OF TWO WHITE
WOMEN: SAID HE
ASSAULTED ONE.

Bainbridge, Ga., May 24-(AP)
Sheriff W.J. Catledge said
Willie Reed, 20 year old
negro confessed slayer of
two women, was shot and
killed tonight while deputies
were taking him to Albany
jail. Reed tried to escape from
the deputies' car, Catledge said.

Reed was shot when he suddenly
wrenched open the door of the
deputies' car near here and fled
towards the woods, the sheriff said.

Advertiser
May 25, 1937
Montgomery, Ala.

~~FROM DETAILED LYNCHING RECORD.~~

May.25. Bainbridge, Decatur County, Ga.,
William Reed, Colored. Charge, Murder.

Was captured at Dothan, Ala., and was being taken to the jail at Albany, Ga., The officers reported he att empted to escape and was shot to death. His body was placed in a Negro Undertaker's parlor at Bainbridge. A mob composed of men and women took the body from the undertaker's parlor, dragged it around the public square behind a procession of automobiles. The mob then moved into the Negro district and to a Negro baseball park where on a pyre made Of boards knocked off the fence the body was burned.

Lynchings - 1937
Cases of.

Mississippi.

5520

Mississippi Mob Lynches Innocent Men

Defender 4-24-37

By J. WINSTON HARRINGTON
(Staff Correspondent)

DUCK HILL, Miss., April 23—(Special)—His eyes gouged out with an ice pick and his body seared with the intense flame of a blow torch, Roosevelt Townes, 25 years of age whose home is in Memphis, Tenn., became the victim of a new kind of lynching here Tuesday when a mob of Mississippi savages sought to satisfy their desire for vengance against the murder of George Windham, a white merchant of this town.

But Townes was just one of the three men "our leading white folks" of Mississippi tortured. Robert McDaniel, 26 named as one of the accessories of the crime which was committed last December, was chained to a tree, horse whipped and then riddled with buckshot from at least a hundred shotguns. As both men went slowly to their death, the howling mob composed of men, women and children from adjoining towns, saturated their bodies with gasoline, quickly gathered brush and within a few minutes the victims were burned to a crisp.

Everett Dorroh, a farmer, who happened to be passing along the route of the mob, barely escaped with his life. Looking on wild eyed as he saw the two men tortured, Dorroh pleaded for his life, declaring he had no part in the murder. He was saved only after he too had been horsewhipped and shot several times in the leg.

The double lynching brought to an end the fifteen month 'clear slate' Mississippi had enjoyed and which Governor Hugh White was proudly boasting of before a convention of farmers at almost the identical minute the mob was conducting its lynching bee.

None of the three had been formally charged with the crime. They had not been identified by any competent witnesses. They were merely arrested as suspects in a murder case, therefore for all intents and purposes they were lynched not for murdering the white merchant, but for being suspected of having committed the crime.

The victims were being taken out of Grenada county court house following their arraignment. They were passing through the jail yard when from all appearances Sheriff E. E. Wright and his two deputies made it convenient to pass their victims on to the mob. "It was not a case of being overpowered' declared an eyewitness.

"Sheriff Wright acted as if though the whole affair had been pre-arranged. When the victims took the men the sheriff laughed and said, 'You have overpowered me boys.'

Both Townes and McDaniel were thrown into a waiting automobile while the mob howled with glee and headed for highway 51. The lynch procession resembled that of a cricus parade. More than 150 automobiles, bearing women, men, and children formed the escort for the lynch caravan.

Enroute they met Dorroh who was named as one of the murderers.

Upon reaching the scene where Windham had met his death in December, the mob ordered the trio out of the car. Townes was the first victim. He was stripped of his clothing ad soaked in gasoline.

This was the preliminary act of applying the blow torches, which plumbers use in soldering steel. White women held their babies high in their arms so that the infants, the future lynchers, could see the torture of the victims.

Five men in the party, wore ministerial garb but it could not be verified as to what churches they represented. They took no part, yet they offered no protest.

McDaniels, who was accused of being a partner in the crime with Townes, was also stripped of his clothing and after being severely flogged was told to run for his life. As he did so his body was punctured with buckshot from at least the shot guns of fifty men.

The third victim, Dorroh, who explained at the outset, that he knew nothing of the crime and that he had just arrived in the town from Winona was forced to plead for his life to the amusement of the mob.

There was much merriment as Dorroh, tied to a tree, was taunted by the twenty-five or more children who were a part of the mob.

It was reported on good authority that Sheriff Wright and some of his deputies drove behind the mob where the prisoners [illegible] lynched.

Lynchings-1937
Cases of

Mississippi.

5521

2 NEGROES LYNCHED BY MISSISSIPPI MOB

Contribution

One Who Confessed Slaying Is Tethered to Tree and Burned.

4-14-37

WINONA, Miss., April 13.—(AP)—Two negroes were lynched by a mob of more than 100 white men near Duck Hill, Miss., this afternoon within two hours after they had pleaded innocence in Montgomery county circuit court to a charge of murdering a white man.

A third negro suspected by the mob of complicity in the slaying of George Windham, a country storekeeper, was severely whipped and run out of the county after narrowly escaping the mob's more vicious vengeance.

Burned at Tree.

Roosevelt Townes, who had confessed, Sheriff E. E. Wright said, that he shot Windham, was tied to a tree and burned to death.

A negro identified only as "Bootjack" McDaniels, indicted with Townes in the Windham slaying, was shot by members of the mob, and his body burned.

Townes and McDaniels were taken from Sheriff Wright and two deputies early this afternoon as they were being led from the courthouse to be returned to the jail to await trial Thursday.

The negroes were handcuffed, and placed in a waiting school bus. Members of the mob piled into the bus, and others into automobiles. The caravan sped northward toward Duck Hill as the negroes screamed for mercy. The bus stopped near the small country store where Windham was fatally shot through a window one night last December, and the negroes were tied to a stake. Townes was burned to death with a blow torch.

Inquiry Planned.

"This terrible thing will be immediately investigated by the grand jury," said Circuit Judge John F. Allen, of Kosciusko, who was presiding at the regular criminal term of circuit court here when the negroes were arraigned.

Judge Allen said he would hold a conference with the district attorney, and that plans for investigating the double lynchings would be made immediately.

Governor Hugh White, who had just declared to a farm chemurgic conference in Jackson that Mississippi had not had a lynching in 15 months, was outraged at reports of the mob action.

He issued an immediate order for the national guard to mobilize a company of troops at Grenada and proceed to Winona, but after conferring with authorities here and learning that the lynching had been completed and the mob had dispersed, the Governor countermanded the order.

Dual Lynching Stirring Storm In Mississippi

4-15-37

White Voices His Regret As Texan In Congress Calls For Quick Action

JACKSON, MISS., April 14.—(AP)—Lynch law was condemned today as cowardly, brutal and lawless by officials and citizens who demanded punishment for white mob leaders who yesterday tortured and killed two negroes, Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjack" McDaniels, accused of killing George S. Windham, a white storekeeper, at Duck Hill, on Dec. 30, 1936.

The negroes were seized from Sheriff E. E. Wright and deputies of Montgomery County at the Winona courthouse just after they had been arraigned and pleaded innocent to murder charges.

The officers were overpowered in the courthouse yard by a hundred members of the mob and the two negro prisoners were chained about their necks by mob members and taken into the woods near Duck Hill and tied to trees.

Screamed Confession

There they screamed a confession of the killing under torture of blow torch fire as a crowd of an estimated 500 men, women and children looked on.

Townes was burned to death and McDaniels was killed by a pistol shot in the head. Another negro named "Shorty" was beaten severely by mob members and ordered to leave the county.

Gov. Hugh White expressed official regrets over the double lynching and said he was taken by complete surprise by the violence.

At the time the first report of the lynching was conveyed to him the Governor had just finished addressing the chemurgic conference here and boasting that Mississippi had not experienced a lynching for 15 months.

The Governor requested Dist. Atty. Clarence Morgan at Winona to investigate the lynching fully and report to him.

In the meantime Chairman Sumners (D), Texas, of the House judiciary committee, who is leading Southern Democrats in opposing the proposed Federal anti-lynching bill in Washington, wired Gov. White that if the State of Mississippi did not bring "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment" the State could not in effect escape becoming an accessory after a fact to the crime.

The Duck Hill lynching, Sumners said, "is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the states."

Gov. White declared that the lynching was unjustified and said he deeply deplored the mob action.

"It was my understanding that the Townes negro had already confessed," the Governor said. "I had absolutely no prior knowledge that any violence of any sort was threatened."

Similar statement were made by Judge John Allen, trial judge at Winona, who had just set Townes's trial for Thursday, and by Sheriff Wright.

These officials said that every step had been taken to insure a regular and fair trial for the negroes and that counsel had been appointed to defend them. The sheriff said he was helpless before the mob.

The executive committee of the Mississippi Council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued a statement declaring that all Christian citizens of Mississippi were humiliated by the action of the mob.

TWO NEGROES LYNCHED BY MOB AT DUCK HILL

Victims Admit Murder of Merchant Before Deaths

4-14-37

PAIR TAKEN FROM GUARDS

Prisoners Were Being Returned To Jail When Seized By Crowd of 150—Investigation Is Promised

Special to The Commercial Appeal

DUCK HILL, Miss., April 13.—Two negroes were the victims of mob vengeance near here today, meeting death after torture with blow torches.

They were accused of the murder of George S. Windham, country merchant, last Dec. 30.

The mob, estimated at 150 or more citizens, forced Sheriff E. E. Wright and Deputies Winston Blakely and Hugh Curtis to surrender the negroes as they were being returned to jail from Montgomery County courthouse at Winona at noon.

Confess Crime

Returning to the scene of the murder, seven miles east of Duck Hill, the mob lashed Roosevelt Townes, 26, of Grenada, to a tree with chains. "Bootjack" McDaniels, 26, of near Duck Hill, was the first to feel the searing blow torch. He quickly confessed his part in the slaying, saying that he stood guard while Townes fired through the window and killed Mr. Windham.

McDaniels was then riddled with bullets.

The torch was next applied to Townes and he repeated the confession he gave when arrested in Memphis last week. After mutilating him with the blow torch for an hour, the lynchers piled brush high about him, saturated it with gasoline and touched a match to the pyre.

Implicate Another

Before dying, the negroes implicated "Shorty" Dorroh, another negro of near Duck Hill, and he was speedily brought to the scene. But Dorroh said that while he had been in the conspiracy at first, he later withdrew and was not at the murder scene. He admitted, however, receiving some of the money stolen from the store.

The mobsters released him after a severe horse-whipping and warned him to leave the state. Dorroh never had been arrested in connection with the murder.

Townes and McDaniels were arraigned before Circuit Judge John F. Allen of Kosciusko at Winona and pleaded not guilty to the murder charge. They were to be tried Thursday.

As Sheriff Wright and his deputies were leading the prisoners from the rear door the mob rushed forward. The officers attempted to retreat to the courthouse, but the mob members blocked their way, seized the handcuffed prisoners and placed them in a school bus. A truck was backed into the courtyard gate blocking it, and the caravan of cars and trucks sped out of town.

Investigation Promised

"This terrible thing will be immediately investigated by the grand jury," Judge Allen said.

Deputy Sheriff Curtis said the prisoners were being led from the courthouse to the jail and that as the negroes and the officer-guards reached the door of the courthouse leading into the jail yard, men milling about the courtyard closed in.

"Two men pinned me from behind, and they grabbed the other officers in the same way," he said.

"It was all done very quickly, quietly and orderly."

Members Not Masked

Curtis was asked if the men were masked.

"No, they weren't masked."

"Did you recognize any of them?"

"No, they were behind me, and I couldn't tell who they were."

Townes had been held in jail at Jackson since his arrest in Memphis April 3 at the home of his mother, 841 North Claybrook. Memphis police said he made the following confession when arrested:

Shot Through Window

"I got a 12-gauge shotgun from by brother-in-law (stole it) and some shells from another man. I went to Windham's store. He was opening a box of sardines. I shot him through the window. I went into his pockets. From his left-hand pocket I took a pocketbook and got $60 from the pocketbook and cash register. I also took a leather lumber jacket."

White Hears of Lynching After Boast On Record

JACKSON, Miss., April 13.—(AP)—"We are justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in 15 months," Governor Hugh White boasted in an address before the Farm Chemurgic Conference here this afternoon.

A minute later, he was called from the conference to be informed by his secretary that two negroes had just been lynched at Duck Hill.

He issued an immediate order for the National Guard to mobolize a company of troops at Grenada and proceed to Winona, but after conferring with authorities here and learning that the lynching had been completed and the mob had dispersed, the governor countermanded the order.

Seven negroes were lynched in Mississippi in 1935.

Debate Spurred On Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, April 13.—(AP)—The House received reports of the lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill, Miss., today in the midst of debate over a federal anti-lynching bill.

Proponents immediately seized upon the mob action as an argument in behalf of a proposal by tional invasion of the rights of the Representative Cavagan, Democrat, states, made no immediate reply on New York, to impose heavy fines the floor, but in statements later and prison terms on persons figuring in lynchings.

Representative Mi[illegible], Republican, Michigan, interrupted a plea by Representative Keller, Democrat, New York, in behalf of the legislation to read press reports of the Mississippi mob action.

Southern Democrats, who branded the legislation as an unconstitu-

Mob Applies Torch To 2 Negroes In Mississippi

4-14-37

Negroes Die At Stake After Denials Of Guilt In White Man's Death

Third Given Lash

Grand Jury Investigation Is Promised By Court Into Double Lynching

WINONA, MISS., April 13.—(AP)—Two negroes were tortured and lynched by a mob of over 100 white men near Duck Hill, Miss., this afternoon within two hours after they had pleaded innocence in Montgomery County Circuit Court to a charge of murdering a white man.

A third negro suspected by the mob of complicity in the slaying of George Windham, a country storekeeper, was severely whipped and run out of the county after narrowly escaping the mob's more vicious vengeance.

Roosevelt Townes, who had confessed, Sheriff E. E. Wright said, that he shot Windham, was tied to a stake and tortured slowly to death by flames from a blow torch.

A negro identified only as "Bootjack" McDaniels, indicted with Townes in the Windham slaying, was shot by members of the mob, and his body burned.

Taken At Courthouse

Townes and McDaniels were taken from Sheriff Wright and two deputies early this afternoon as they were being led from the courthouse to be returned to the jail to await trial Thursday.

The negroes were handcuffed, and placed in a waiting school bus. Members of the mob piled into the bus, and others into automobiles. The caravan sped northward toward Duck Hill as the negroes screamed for mercy. The bus stopped near the small country store where Windham was fatally shot through a window one night last December.

To Order Jury Probe

"This terrible thing will be immediately investigated by the Grand Jury," said Circuit Judge John F. Allen, of Kosciusko, who was presiding at the regular criminal term of Circuit Court here when the negroes were arraigned.

Judge Allen said he would hold a conference with the district attorney, and that plans for investigating the double lynchings would be made immediately.

LYNCHERS TORTURE, BURN TWO NEGROES

Mississippi Mob Takes Two Prisoners From Officers Outside of Court House

4-14-37

JUDGE STARTS INQUIRY

Reports of the Tragedy Enliven House Debate on Federal Anti-Lynching Bill

WINONA, Miss., April 13 (AP).—Two Negroes were tortured and lynched by a mob of more than 100 white men near Duck Hill this afternoon within two hours after they had pleaded innocent in Montgomery County Circuit Court to a charge of murdering a white man.

A third Negro suspected by the mob of complicity in the slaying of George Windham, a country storekeeper, was severely whipped and run out of the county after narrowly escaping the fate of the other two Negroes.

Roosevelt Townes, who had confessed, Sheriff E. E. Wright said, that he shot Windham, was tied to a tree near his victim's store and tortured slowly to death with flames from a blow-torch.

A Negro identified only as "Bootjack" McDaniels, indicted with Townes in the Windham slaying, was shot by members of the mob and his body burned.

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The Negroes were handcuffed and placed in a waiting school bus. Members of the mob piled into the bus and others into automobiles. The caravan sped northward toward Duck Hill as the Negroes screamed for mercy. The bus stopped near the small country store where Windham was fatally shot through a window one night last December. The Negroes were tied to a tree and tortured.

"This terrible thing will be immediately investigated by the grand jury," said Circuit Judge John F. Allen of Kosciusko, who was presiding at the regular criminal term of Circuit Court here when the Negroes were arraigned.

Judge Allen said he would hold a conference with the District Attorney and plans for investigating the double lynchings would be made immediately.

"Not a Lynching in Fifteen Months"

JACKSON, Miss., April 13 (AP).—"We are justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in fifteen months," Governor Hugh White boasted in an address before the Farm Chemurgic Conference here this afternoon.

A minutes later he was called from the conference to learn from his secretary that two Negroes had just been lynched at Duck Hill.

Hattiesburg, Miss. American
April 13, 1937

TWO NEGROES LYNCHED

(By Associated Press)

GRENADA, Miss., April 13—Deputy Sheriff G. W. Frazier said late this afternoon he had been informed a mob had lynched two negroes about 1 p. m. at the scene of the slaying of a merchant for whose death they were [illegible] arrest.

Lynchings-1937
Cases of 6

Tennessee

5523

SIX MASKED MEN LYNCH PRISONER

Telegraph

Negro Charged With Murder of Police Officer Taken From Sheriff and Shot

8-18-37

COVINGTON, Tenn., Aug. 17 (AP)—Six masked men, who laughed and shouted, "To hell with the law," seized a terror-stricken Negro from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan early today, riddled him with bullets, and left his body dangling at the end of a frayed plow line.

It was the first lynching in Tipton county since the War Between the States. Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist, ordering the county grand jury to make a "real investigation" of the "disgraceful, horrible crime," demanded first degree murder indictments against the "night riders," if their identities can be established.

Albert Gooden's body lay on the edge of Beaver creek 12 miles from here when officers came upon it, the head submerged. The rope had given way under the weight of his swaying form. The legs were bound together at the ankles. The hands, still in handcuffs placed by officers, also were bound by heavy wire. More than 30 bullets had pierced the body.

The mobsmen crowded Sheriff Vaughan's car off the highway last night, disarmed him and seized the Negro. The sheriff was bringing him to Covington to face a charge of slaying City Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason, Tenn., a month ago.

The Negro had been incarcerated at Memphis in view of a previous attempt at violence.

Sheriff Describes Capture

Gooden's death was recorded as the seventh lynching of 1937, Tennessee's first since 1935.

"Every one participating," Judge Baptist told the grand jury, or even "aiding or abetting" in the lynching "is guilty of murder in the first degree.'

Warning against a "perfunctory" inquiry, he said he wanted the investigation "full, complete and searching."

Sheriff Vaughan said he kept secret the purpose of his trip to Memphis yesterday. He was about 300 yards from Brighton on his return when "a car crowded me off the pavement."

"Five men with handkerchiefs over their faces jumped out and covered us with pistols," the sheriff said, adding they dragged the Negro from the car. When the Negro jerked loose, he was hit with a gun, and dumped into the second car.

KILLER HUNG, SLAIN BY MOB IN TENNESSEE

Bullet-Riddled Body Of Negro Is Found Today Beneath Bridge

Rock

SHERIFF OVERPOWERED

8-17-37

Victim Apparently Had Been Shot Off Of Iron Railing

Barnum Jones

By United Press.

COVINGTON, Tenn., Aug. 17.—The bullet-riddled body of a Negro farmer, who had been charged with killing the white marshal of Mason, Tenn., today was found below a highway bridge near here.

Six masked men last night took the Negro, Albert Gooden, 35, from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan. The sheriff was bringing the Negro from the Shelby County Jail in Memphis where he had been held for safekeeping since July 19. The Negro was to have been taken before the Tipton County Grand Jury today for indictment.

The sheriff said a sedan forced his automobile to the side of the highway six miles from here. Five masked men jumped from the car, covered the sheriff with guns and took his revolver.

"All right, let's have him," growled one of the abductors.

Body Is Found

Two of the masked men grabbed the handcuffed Negro when he jumped from the car and started to run. One of them banged him over the head with the butt of a revolver and threw him into their automobile.

"Please lemme go with Mister Vaughan," was the Negro's last plea heard by the sheriff.

After a six-hour search, Chief Deputy J. W. Pickens and Traffic Officer J. T. Scott found the Negro's body at 3 a. m. under the bridge on a dirt road, nine miles from the point on the main highway where the prisoner was taken from the sheriff.

The body of the handcuffed Negro was riddled with pistol shots. The sheriff's revolver lay beside the body. There was a rope plow line noosed about Gooden's neck. The plow line had broken and one end dangled from the railing of the bridge. The Negro apparently had been shot off the railing after he had been tied to it with the rope. It appeared that the Negro's lunge from the railing or pistol shots had severed the rope.

Escaped Mob Once

It was the first lynching in Tipton County since the Civil War.

"I am going to make a full investigation," Vaughan said, "but I haven't much to go on as the men were masked, and of course, I didn't recognize any of them."

The most recent previous lynching in this section of the Mid-South was near Duck Hill, Miss., when two Negroes—accused of killing a white man—were tortured with a blow torch and killed five months ago.

Gooden was charged with killing Marshal Chester Doyle when he and other officers raided a Negro dice game at Mason July 17.

Vaughan took Gooden to Memphis the following night after he heard rumors of lynching plans.

TENNESSEE LYNCHING STARTS STIR

Mother Refuses To View Body Of Her Son

8-27-37

By NAT. D. WILLIAMS

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—There was no large attendance at Albert Gooden's funeral the other day. In fact, he did not even have a funeral...they just carried him to the graveyard and buried him. No sermon—no mourning—no obituary—just a crowd of curious on-lookers hanging away back, not daring to be seen too close to the grave—and the sound of dirt clods falling on a box.

Albert Gooden had been lynched—lynched just a few steps from Memphis, the Hub of the Mid-South—just the morning before his burial. A mob of [illegible] died his body and hung him late Monday night, August 16 close to the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church near the Brighton community, between Mason and Covington, two small towns in Tipton county in rural, West Tennessee.

His mother wouldn't even look at his remains. She coudn't stand it. Southern tradition was asking too much—even of a mother.

His father, built of a little sterner stuff, and retaining a bit more composure, made the arrangements. His brother, operator of a burial association, looked after the materials and things. He even took one of his hearses and went to Covington early Tuesday morning, after three 'laws' (the colored folk call officers that in Tipton county), had awakened him and his wife about six o'clock in the morning and told them that they could 'go over and get Albert now, or leave him with H. H. Porter,' the colored undertaker in Covington who first picked up the lynch victim's body off the bridge.

(Funny thing about Porter....he got lost on his way to get the body....he did not give any reasons.)

Porter and other leading colored folk in Covington and nearby communities won't have much to say about the lynching pro or con. They take the attitude of letting the white folk do all the worrying.

The common folk just stand around and listen for what they can hear. Tobacco-chewing and suspendered white deputies took on a new look of importance as they went in and out of the court-house in Covington, while I was there....everybody seemed to think they knew something. Maybe they did.

But, no doubt, the details of a gruesome business will shed more light.

The first lynching in Tipton County, Tennessee in more than seventy years is now a matter for the more or less heated discussions which follows such happenings in these parts. Most decent citizens are aghast.

Albert Gooden, 22 year-old-coca-colored Negro youth, was found last Tuesday morning, his bullet-riddled body sprawled in the rank weeds growing on the banks of a sluggish creek that crawled beneath the bridge of a well-traveled highway. A broken rope was found knotted around his neck.

Albert had been taken from the Tipton County Sheriff, W. J. Vaughn, as he was being transferred from a Memphis jail to Covington, the Tipton County seat, for trial in the slaying of a county deputy, Chester Doyle.

Circumstances surrounding the lynching have led to a demand from Tipton County Judge R. B. Baptist, for a Grand Jury investigation, and a deal of questioning as to the degree of Sheriff Vaughn's responsibility in the matter.

Representing the sentiment of the better element of the Tipton county citizenry, Judge Baptist, an aged and well-known jurist, is apparently sincere in his demands for a complete investigation of the crime and its perpetrators.

So strong was his insistence on this point that he charged the members of the grand jury that "if any member of the group feels incapable of making a thorough effort to find and punish the lynchers, he should get off the jury at once."

Last Wednesday, the Grand Jury was recessed until September 1. In many quarters this action was decried as delaying the lynch investigation.

An Out Side Crime

Citizens of Covington, Tennessee are quick to point out

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
August 18, 1937

Negro Murder Suspect Lynched

that the lynching was nct committed by citizens of that locality. They emphasize the fine relations between the races which have existed in the county seat for scores of years, and point out the fact that original Gooden trouble started in Mason, Tennessee, a little town about 12 miles from there.

In recounting the history of conditions in that locality in the past few years one learns from long-time residents of Tipton County that there have been repeated outbreaks of trouble between white and colored individuals in the Mason community. The Gooden trouble, according to them, was just another instance in point.

The lynching, of course, was a climax to a long brewing stew of hard feeling and misunderstanding.

Albert Gooden, member of a large family, consisting of three sisters, five brothers and his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Gooden, had a reputation for making trouble in the Mason community. He had had several 'brushes' with the law. On the night of July 17, Saturday, the town marshall, Mr. Delaney, summoned his deputy, Chester Doyle and several officers from Covington to assist them in raiding an alleged Negro 'dive,' a restaurant, operated by Ed Gooden, Albert's brother.

In the course of the raid, Doyle slapped a colored woman and otherwise beat her brutally, allegedly. This woman was known as Jennie Lou Pressman. She was said to be Albert's sweetheart. It is alleged that witnessing the slapping, Gooden poked a shotgun through a window and shot Doyle in the back, killing him.

A conflicting version to this is given later on in this article by the statement of other persons involved.

Later reports have it that the woman known as Jennie Lou Pressman, was notorious, familiar with white and colored men, and known to have associated with Doyle. She had been in Mason only a few days. She was held in jail as a material witness along with Allison Plummer, a school teacher, alleged to have aided Gooden in avoiding a mob and law officers. They were released when Gooden was lynched.

The sheriff was out of his office late Wednesday evening. Reports had it that he had returned to the scene of the lynching with some of his deputies to look for clues.

Public sentiment in Covington is posing three questions relative to the sheriff's responsibility in the matter. The first question is "Why did the sheriff stop for a cold drink on his way back to Covington, when he knew the feeling against his prisoner?" The second is, "Didn't the sheriff have time to draw his gun from the time he first noticed the other car's crowding him from the road, to the time the four men came back and took Gooden?" And the third query is, "Why would the sheriff go down a night ahead to get a prisoner in Gooden's circumstances when his trial wasn't set until the next day—couldn't he just as easily have gone the next day, since it's only a forty minute drive?"

Despite the undertone of such sentiments, however, Sheriff W. J. Vaughn maintains steadfastly that he is unable to identify the men who took his prisoner—his original story.

John Winford, white merchant of Covington who accompanied the sheriff to Memphis to get Gooden, stated that he "was a victim of circumstances, that he had no idea that the sheriff was going to Memphis to get Gooden, or he would not have gone, that the officer told him he was going to Memphis to buy some supplies for his farm, that they (he and the sheriff) were completely in the power of the gun-men, and that he believes the sheriff knew nothing of any approaching or intended mob violence.

Allison Plummer, recently liberated school teacher connected with the case, made something bordering on a startling new development relative to Gooden's innocence of the slaying of Deputy Doyle, when he stated that he did not ride Gooden around during the night, but took him to his (Gooden's) father's home, as requested along with the bleeding Jennie Lou, who was with Gooden at the time. Plummer says he made no affidavit saying Gooden confessed slaying Doyle to him.

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And so, the case rests in the first lynching in Tipton County, Tennessee since the Civil War.

The above picture shows the body of Albert Gooden, 24-year-old Negro, who was lynched early Tuesday, being dragged from Beaver Creek, twelve miles south of Covington, Tenn. Left to right, Sheriff W. J. Vaughn, unidentified undertaker, Deputy Sheriff V. W. Pickens and former Sheriff James E. Scott. Gooden was being transferred from a Memphis jail to Covington, where he was to stand trial for the murder of Marshall Doyle during a crap game in Mason, Tenn.

Lynchings-1937
6
Discussions.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

5578

Jackson, Miss., News
June 3, 1937

AND HE MADE A SPEECH

The Daily News was kind and considerate with Congressman Sumners, of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, when he came to Jackson a few days ago to do some raving and rearing and tearing of what he has left in the way of hair concerning the subject of lynching.

Congressman Sumners, chief speaker before the Mississippi Association for Prevention of Lynching, was our guest and therefore it would not have been polite to say anything against the carefully prepared and shipped-in-advance speech he had written for the occasion. No newspaper printed it in full. In fact, he got only a few lines in the papers. More important things going on. His crowd was meagre. "Slimly attended," said one reporter.

That was in strict accord with the eternal fitness of things.

Congressman Sumners is not a good speaker.

Congressman Sumners had a poor subject.

Congressman Sumners happens to be a chairman of the House judiciary committee because of the rule of seniority and not because of any particular fitness he has for the place.

So much by way of prelude for a thumping good editorial.

Down at Biloxi dwells George P. Money who devotes his leisure time to writing darned good editorials for the Gulfport-Biloxi Daily Herald.

If you happen to know anything about Mississippi history you certainly know the prominent part that has been played in our state affairs by the Money family—beginning with that illustrious blind Senator Hernando DeSoto Money. George Money is his blood kin. He is a scholar and a gentleman, gracefully growing old but still capable of good thinking.

All right. That's the introduction. Now listen to what George P. Money has to say in the Gulfport-Biloxi Daily Herald concerning Congressman Sumners and the subject of lynching. Here it is:

Congressman Sumners of Texas is chairman of the House judiciary committee, we believe. As such he feels responsible—in addition to being a Southerner—for the anti-lynching bill which has passed the House after introduction by a New York Congressman who has a well-shaded district, but perhaps has never been where one has to carry a lantern to see his way in a crowd down here. He has given interviews and written Southern Governors about it, and cries, even as of old: "Help me, Cassius, or we sink!"

He warns all, that if "they" do not stop lynching—which generally is done unexpectedly and suddenly by a small number, some of them quite irresponsible—a Federal lynching law will be passed, and the Federal grand juries, once in a great while, first in the Northern and then in the Southern District, they will indict somebody or other if they can learn who they are, or even find John Doe and Richard Roe indictments—and there will be great times at the trials.

Under the President's court bill, even some of the new Northern judges may be assigned to try such cases.

Suppose that somebody introduced a bill up there to indict the sheriffs, the constables, the governor and district attorneys who have failed to put down the mobs in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, New York, California, where thousands, innumerable times, have gathered and broken many laws; have defied the police and the courts and all constituted authority; have denied the right to others not affiliated with them to work; have stoned and beaten non-affiliated employes; have stopped business; have taken possession of plants and places of business; have stopped transportation and business. Why not such a Federal law? These things take place, have taken place, will continue to take plaace, and "conciliation" and "arbitration" and "conference" are the resort by the states where these things have occurred. Let the Federal government take charge of it. More than 70,000 are going out now—and they know what it means.

Then, again, why not introduce a bill to give the Federal government authority to indict all those scoundrels who have kidnaped, abused and killed poor little children, grown men, women? Gangs of the large "cultivated" and "literate" cities who have taken men for rides and crossed state boundaries? And why not have the government take charge of the unconscionable and criminal rackets in the large cities?

We do not condone lynching at all, and wish that all citizens of this and other states would abide by the law—resort to it for punishment of crimes. But we have to bear with it—the people of the East and West do not. But nevertheless the people of New York, by their Congressman's bill, would administer our police laws. They always are telling us what to do in the South. We are always wrong, deficient, omissive and commissive in some way—we always measure short when their yardstick is laid to us mentally, physically, sentimentally, economically, educationally, artistically, productively, and otherwise.

We ask them to clean their own stables. We know very well whence comes the motive of these bills and anti-lynch bills. We are not one whit deceived.

At San Pedro, California, last week, a policeman shot a longshoreman. There was a mass meeting of 4000 marine workers who "took over" San Pedro for the day in protest, and defied the police. They paralyzed the lawful control of the city. Work on the waterfront was halted and business places closed. Yet we are unlawful in the South!

And so, we ask that we give them a Roland for their Oliver. We want some Federal bills giving the government power to straighten out some conditions in other places if we are to have a Federal anti-lynch law. And we would like to read some of our Southern Congressmen telling them that. What happened in California until Southern Representatives helped the Western Congressmen pass the anti-alien law? Plenty of assaults upon Orientals! But their Congressmen now recall the help we gave them. Introduce a bill to repeal the Chinese and Asiatic exclusion laws and watch them squirm!

Marked copies of George P. Money's editorial have been sent to Senators Pat Harrison and Theodore G. Bilbo.

That absurd anti-lynching bill is pending in the Senate. It will die on calendar.

George P. Money's editorial will appear in the Congressional Record, which isn't a very interesting publication but more people read it than were assembled to hear Congressman-Chairman Sumners' diatribe in Jackson on the general subject of lynching.

The best explanation of passage in the lower house of Congress of that Federal anti-lynching bill is that members of the body stumbled into the chamber one day and felt that they were in duty bound to pass a bill of some sort that might make constituents believe they were doing something.

Concluding the subject:

Pass out some pity to the secretaries, clerks, and stenographers in the office of Congressman Sumners. They have so many angry letters to answer, most of them from the constituency of Congressman Sumners.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
June 3, 1937

Committee in Every County Women's Aim

Efforts Planned to Expand Southern Drive Against Lynching.

Efforts will be made during the ensuing year by the Florida Council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, to establish executive committees in each of the 67 county seats in the State, according to a decision arrived at here yesterday, prior to the adjournment of a two-day convention of that organization in the St. John's Episcopal Community House.

Such was the program arrived at by a committee headed by Mrs. C. M. White and Mrs. H. Willis McFadden, and submitted to the executive session of the Florida council, which heard as its principal speaker during the day William A. Hallowes III, State attorney-elect of the Fourth Judicial Circuit. Mr. Hallowes spoke on the "Law of Florida and the Control of Lynching."

The committees which the Florida council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, will try to organize, will seek to associate with them one or more outstanding men of the community, "who will agree to aid in securing the support of the men of the county in time of need."

The executive session opened yesterday morning with prayer by Mrs. E. L. Vordermark, followed by a brief statement of the association's accomplishments and the situation with regard to the lynching record of 1936 and the five months of the current year by Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman.

Objectives Discussed.

Discussions on the objectives of the Florida council were led by Mrs. M. A. Salvo, Mrs. I. L. Kaplan, Mrs. O. O. McCollum, Mrs Edward P. Pfaff.

Mrs. Salvo and Mrs. Pfaff submitted a young people's program which was adopted, requesting that program chairman of Summer conferences submit the association's objectives and request signatures; that business girls' clubs of the Y. W. C. A. be asked to devote one meeting to the work of the lynching body; and that co-operation of study classes in religious groups be sought.

A recommendation on a college extension program, submitted by Mrs. Kaplan and Mrs. T. Frederick Davis, which also was adopted, read in part as follows:

"We recommend that great effort be made to reach the college men and women of the State as a fertile soil for education against lynching. We suggest that the presidents of the various colleges in the State of Florida be urged to incorporate this study as a part of the courses in psychology and sociology."

Upon the recommendation of Mrs. McCollum, Mrs. Vordermark and Mrs. Woodley, the Florida council voted to secure endorsements from:

The Synodical of the Presbyterian Church, the women of the Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Congregational Churches, the Tri-State and local Temple Sisterhoods, the Business and Professional Woman's Club, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the

Daughters of the American Revolution, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Home Demonstration Agents, young people's groups and others.

Recommendations Approved.

The committee on new signatures, which was composed of Mrs. Pfaff, Mrs. Henry W. Haven and Miss Ray Halle, submitted the following recommendations, which were approved:

"That we seek to secure signatures in each of the 67 counties of the State of Florida during 1937-1938. (15 counties at present are not contacted.)

"That we make a special effort to promote a sub-membership of young people for the signature roll of the Florida council, having as our aim 500 names.

"That our total goal for new signatures for 1937-1938 be set at 2000."

Closing resolutions were adopted offering the appreciation of the council to Dr. P. M. Boyd and the board of the First Methodist Church for their hospitality in housing Tuesday night's meeting and play of the association; to Director H. Alfred Farrel and members of the negro cast of "Lawd Does Yo' Undahstan'," as well as to Arthur Platt, Daniel Morris and Alan Hovey for participating in the production of the play; to the Rev. Newton Middleton and the vestry of St. John's Church for use of the Community House, to Mr. Hallowes, and to Miss Margaret G. Weed, directress of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's Church, and her committee for the luncheon.

Approximately 25 women were in attendance.

"I think that you will all agree with me that all Americans are proud of their democratic form of government. They are proud of the deeds of their forefathers, and they realize perhaps that some of their forefathers gave up all that was dear to them. They are proud of the right of law and order, and they like to feel a part in preserving law and order," said Mr. Hallowes during his address.

"In the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, it is found that no man shall be deprived of his life without due process of law, that the right of a trial by jury shall be secured by law and made violate.

"No man can be law, jury and court himself. No man's life should be taken summarily without a fair and impartial trial before a court—the right to be heard before he is condemned."

"We do not have any statute or crime known as lynching," he stated. "Lynching is murder in the first degree.

"Principals and accessories, anyone who is in the assembly, which is bent on taking a man's life unlawfully, the man who fires the shot or pulls the rope is the principal in the first degree. If he hires, abets, counsels the principals, he is guilty of the first degree, as the guilt is the same as the one who actually accomplishes the crime. No plea of self-defense, no extenuating circumstances, no plea of insanity shall avail. With malice aforethought and malicious intention, you have a clear case of murder in the first degree."

The speaker defined an accessory before and after the fact, and spoke of his equal guilt in the eyes of the law. "One of the big factors in the prevention of crime," said Mr. Hallowes, "is the conviction of those who commit crimes, so as to set an example to others. If two or three received capital punishment, it would go a long ways to deter others, but it is very rarely or ever that conviction can be gotten in such cases.

"If you are faced with a lynching that appears to be imminent, advise your sheriff He has more power as an individual than any officer in the county. He takes an oath to perform the duties of his office faithfully and well. It is his duty to suppress all riots, or if necessary he may raise a militia of the county.

"With the wheels of justice acting quickly, and the authorities using caution, diplomacy and tact in handling, and if the prosecuting attorneys and judges will give the suspected person a fair trial, confidence will be maintained in the supremacy of the law."

Lynchings-1937
Discussion

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

5579

ANTI-LYNCHING GROUP TO MEET

Georgia Program to Be Studied as National Body of Women Gathers in Atlanta

ATLANTA, Jan. 11 (AP)—The Georgia program of the association of southern women for the prevention of lynching is expected to be given special consideration at the convention of the organization here Wednesday and Thursday.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, said Georgia would be given special consideration because "Georgia had six of the nine lynchings in the United States last year."

The opening day of the convention will be devoted to business with principal discussion expected to center around whether a lynching can be considered as such when the body of the suspected victim is never discovered.

Mrs. Ames will report progress of the association's work during the past year, and further plans for the anti-lynching campaign will be formulated.

The dramatic department of Payne College, Augusta, Ga., and the community playhouse, of Nashville, Tenn., will present two one-act plays dealing with lynching Wednesday night.

Dr. S. M. Bristol, of the University of Florida, and Dr. Arthur Raper, of Agnes Scott college, Decatur, Ga., will be the principal speakers at a luncheon Thursday.

Dr. Bristol will discuss Changing Social Attitude, while Dr. Raper will speak on Methods of Perpetuating Racial Attitude.

Anti-Lynchers End Session Today

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching continues its sixth annual conference in Atlanta today, according to Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the Association, which has its headquarters here. More than thirty representative women are present from all parts of the South, including state chairmen from each of thirteen Southern states who are reporting on the activities of the several state councils.

Presiding over the conference is the director of the Association, Mrs. Ames, of Atlanta. Other speakers and leaders are Mrs. Arch Trawick, of Nashville, representing the National Council of Women; Mrs. R. H. Agate, of Lafayette, La., president of the Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs; Dr. L. M. Bristol, of the University of Florida; Dr. Arthur Raper, of Agnes Scott College; Mrs. W. A. Newell, of Salisbury, N. C., secretary of Christian Social Relations of the Methodist Womans' Missionary Council.

The Association was organized in Atlanta in 1930 and now has a constituency of 35,000 Southern women, each of whom has personally signed a repudiation of lynching for any cause whatever and a pledge to do everything possible to put an end to it.

ANTI-LYNCH GROUP HITS PUBLIC DEATH

Association Opposes Execution of Criminals in View of All Comers.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching went on record yesterday in opposition to public executions.

Members said a resolution they indorsed was aimed principally at a Kentucky law which provides public execution of persons sentenced to death for criminal assault, and statutes which make possible public hangings in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director, told the association at its convention here more than 6,000 members were added in the past year, bringing the total membership to 35,000.

She said 77 organizations, representing a membership of 4,000,000, were co-operating in its program against lynching.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 13, 1937

TWO PLAYS OFFERED BY ANTI-LYNCH GROUP

Two prize-winning plays, "Country Sunday" and "Lawd, Does Yo' Undahstan?" will be presented at 7:45 o'clock tonight at the Peachtree Christian church. The productions will be presented under the auspices of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The public has been invited to attend and there will be no charge for admission, it was announced.

Women of South Are Tired of 'Chivalry' As Excuse for Lynching, Says Mrs. Ames

By the Associated Press.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames yesterday said white women of the south are rapidly forming opposition to "the use of their skirts as blinds for negro lynchings."

She said substantiation of her statement was gathered here last week at the first biennial session of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Ames is director of the association.

"Economic creed is the cause of more lynchings than the protection of white women's honor," Mrs. Ames declared.

She said 35,000 women in 13 southern states have signed pledges to fight lynching.

"For years crimes have been committed in the south in the name of women without cause," Mrs. Ames said. "White women of the south now are realizing this is a travesty on justice and a slur on their honor."

She said the days when "southern chivalry" can be used as the legal excuse for "summarily putting to death a negro that some person or group does not like" are numbered.

Representatives of women's organizations from the southern states mapped a vigorous campaign to prevent lynching in the south this year.

Their method is to expose the facts. "The hush-hush system is outmoded," said Mrs. Ames. "We are letting white women know the truth about so-called attacks by negroes, since most of them are fictional."

The association does not favor anti-lynching legislation, Mrs. Ames said, because the organization is non-political. The association seeks merely to destroy "the fiction about the necessity for lynching."

Mrs. Ames came to Georgia seven years ago from her native Texas. She began the Association for the Prevention of Lynching the following year.

Small of stature, with greyish hair, she is a widow and the mother of three children.

She says her inspiration to fight the "hysterical ignorance" connected with lynching sprang from an incident of childhood.

"There was a notorious lynching case in east Texas," she said, "about which the cook and the yard man were talking. I overheard that the man was burned to death with hot irons, but when I asked for more details I was hushed. For years I imagined a man laid out on an ironing board and slowly pressed."

Anniston, Ala. Star
January 14, 1937

Resettlement Program Is Aid To Curb On Dixie Lynching

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
January 11, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING GROUP TO MEET

Thirty representatives from 13 Southern States will attend the sixth annual conference of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, convening Wednesday and Thursday at the Piedmont Hotel.

Mrs. Attwood Martin, well-known author of Louisville, Ky., and chairman of the association, will preside at the conference.

Speakers and leaders to be present include Mrs. Arch Trawick, of Nashville, representing the National Council of Women; Mrs. R. H. Agate, of Lafayette, La., president of the Louisiana Federation of Women's Clubs; Dr. L. M. Bristol, of the University of Florida; Dr. Arthur Raper, of Agnes Scott College; Mrs. Geline McDonald Bowman, of Richmond, past national president of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Mrs. W. A. Newell, of Salisbury, N. C., secretary of Christian Social Relations of the Methodist Woman's Missionary Council; Mrs. H. J. MacMillan, of Wilmington, N. C., president of the Episcopal Woman's Auxiliary of the Fourth Province, and Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association.

The Association for the Prevention of Lynching was organized in Atlanta in 1930. The body now includes a constitutency of 35,000 women, who have personally pledged to repudiate all lynchings.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 14. (U.P.)—Southern women today pointed to the federal government's program of rural resettlement as a means to end the crime of lynching, described as the "disgrace of the South."

Meeting in biennial convention here, leaders of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, declared the stamping out of farm tenancy and sharecropping would go far to remove the underlying cause of mob rule.

"Lynching has been the method by which white people have maintained what they considered control over the Negro," Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, told the United Press.

"This mob rule largely has been exercised by the poorer classes—especially tenants and sharecroppers—who have had no other means to show their superiority. With more even distribution of land and greater land ownership among these poorer classes, the need for lynchings will largely disappear."

Lynch law has caused the death of 92 persons in the United States in the past six years—all but a dozen occurred in the South. The peak year was 1933, when 28 persons were taken from officers and slain by mobs.

Last year the number dropped to nine—six in Georgia and one each in Mississippi, Arkansas and Florida.

Columbia, S. C. Record
January 14, 1937

WOMEN OPPOSE PUBLIC DEATHS FOR CRIMINALS

ATLANTA, Jan. 14.—(AP)— The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching went on record today in opposition to public executions.

Members said a resolution they endorsed was aimed principally at a Kentucky law which provides public execution of persons entenced to death for criminal assault, and statutes which make possible public hangings in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director, told the association at its convention here more than 6,000 members were added in the past ... bringing the total membership to 35,000.

Decrease in Lynchings In U. S. Is Reported

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, yesterday credited a 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 to "growth

Five persons ... Georgia in 1936, ... 1936, reveal records com... department of research ... Normal.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
January 15, 1937

MEANS TO END CRIME

By BROOKS SMITH
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 15.—(U.P.)—Southern women today pointed to the federal government's program of rural resettlement as a means to end the crime of lynching, described as the "disgrace of the South."

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Last year the number dropped to nine—six in Georgia and one each in Mississippi, Arkasas and Florida.

Mrs. Ames attributed the large number in 1933 to the effect in the South of the NRA.

Kansas City, Mo. Star
FEB. 23, 1937 F24

Another Task for Civilization.

The president of Tuskegee Institute attributes a decline of 90 per cent in the number of lynchings in the United States over the last half century to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people." It is conceded that the work of alert sheriffs and other officers of the law has been a factor in the gradual approach to a more civilized order. Through the operation of these combined forces, then, it may be hoped that the activities of certain primitive religious sects in conducting "prayer floggings" of people who are disapproved in communities of Eastern North Carolina will be halted in less than another half century.

STATE LAWS TO CURB LYNCHING ADVOCATED

Mississippi Women To Sponsor Legislation

5-29-37

OUSTER STATUE URGED

Executive Branch Would Be Given Power To Remove Officials of County Where Mob Violence Occurs

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson Mississippi Bureau

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., May 28.—Sponsorship of a bill giving state officialsa uthority to remove county authorities who fail to suppress mob violence and lynchings was announced today by the Mississippi division, Society of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Decision to urge enactment of this type of legislation followed last night's meeting at which Representative Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, said unless states assume this responsibility, "the federal government is going to step in and take a hand, whether we wish it or not."

Authority Circumscribed

The state group of women, headed by Mrs. L. W. Alford, of McComb, opposes lynching, but is not on record as favoring federal legislation to curb this sort of lawlessness.

Under existing laws in Mississippi, the governor and other law enforcement officers are without authority to take any action other than to urge county officials to apprehend mobsters and bring them to trial. In all lynchings, officials state failure to identify members of such groups and no action follows. Representative Sumners suggested that Mississippians study the Virginia anti-lynching statute as a guide.

Plan Recommendations

Representative Sumners favors state suppression of lynching rather than federal intervention, which he said would result in states losing their sovereignty.

The most effective remedy prescribed by the House chairman as a curb to mob violence is state legislation permitting the central state government, possibly the gover, to remove officers who permit lynchings to occur.

"We plan to study the various laws and recommend to our Legislature in January some measure to curb lynching," Mrs. Alford said.

Bishop Makes Talk

Bishop Theodor DuBose Brataton, of the Mississippi Episcopal diocese and president of Sewanee, told the meeting that 't'he white race is literally on trial on the question of lynching."

"Mob violence is the destruction and lynching of law itself," he said.

The Episcopal bishop warned that "no nation can survive whose people contravene with their own laws."

"The only way to minister to people is through people," Bishop Bratton said in urging a Christianlike attitude toward members of the negro race. He called an opening of the door of "sympathetic understanding.

"When dealing with any race we are dealing with God's life itself," Bishop Bratton said.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
June 2, 1937

Anti-Lynching Aims Told By Mrs. Cornell

Chairman of Florida Unit Makes Talk at Women's Opening Session.

Figures reported last night by Mrs. William P. Cornell, chairman Florida Council, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, revealed that 37,267 men and women have signed the association pledge against lynching. She was speaking at the opening session of the Florida Council's convention in the First Methodist Church.

In addition to Mrs. Cornell's talk last night on the subject "Southern Women Look at Lynching," the one-act play "Lord Does Yo' Undahstan'?" by Ann Seymour was staged for the delegates who will reconvene for their executive session at 10 o'clock this morning in St. John's Community House.

The following program has been announced for today's meeting:

Prayer, Mrs. Ernest L. Vordermark; statement, Mrs. Cornell; round table discussion on objectives; "The Importance of Reaching the Young People of the State," by Mrs. M. M. Salvo, "A College Program," Mrs. Israel L. Kaplan; "Securing Endorsements from Co-operating State-wide and Local Groups," Mrs. O. O. McCollum; "1,000 New Signatures to the Declaration in 1937," Mrs. Edward P. Pfaff; "Committees in 69 County Seats," Mrs. Cornell; "The Law and the Control of Lynching," William A. Hallowes III, State's attorney-elect, Fourth Judicial Circuit; 1 P. M. luncheon; 2 P. M. adjournment.

Mrs. Cornell introduced her talk last night with a short history of the founding of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, leading up to a recitation of the following declaration which is the platform of the association:

"We declare lynching is an indefensible crime, destructive of all principles of government, hateful and hostile to every ideal of religion and humanity, debasing and degrading to every person involved. Though lynchings are not confined to any one section of the United States, we are aroused by the record which discloses our heavy responsibility for the presence of this crime in our country. We believe that this record has been achieved because public opinion has accepted too easily the claim of lynchers and mobsters that they were acting solely in the defense of womanhood. In the light of facts, this claim can no longer be used as a protection to those who lynch. We pledge ourselves to create a new public opinion in the South which will not condone for any reason whatever acts of mobs or lynchers."

Speaking of the work of the organization since its inception in 1930, when lynchings had reached a new high level, Mrs. Cornell said:

"Local conditions and attitudes have been studied; the co-operation of the press has been sought and in many cases generously given. Governors and other State officials have been interviewed, as have sheriffs and local peace officers; in each case the local constituencies being used to make the necessary contacts thereby proving beyond doubt the interest, the convictions and the support of the home constituencies in this and other law observances.

"In this year of our Lord, 1937, the Association reports 37,267 men and women who are signers of the association's pledge: Eighty-one state, sectional and national groups with an estimated membership of more than four million women have endorsed the aims of the (Southern) association and are extending its program."

"Lynching challenges Christianity," she said in conclusion, "at home and hinders and discredits Christian missionary enterprise throughout the world. They occur nowhere but in the United States of America, not even among the savages we seek to Christianize.

"God help each one of us to do his bit through influence and service to cleanse this black spot from our beloved homeland."

Lynchings-1937
Discussion.

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings.

5580

'Use of Skirts as Blind' In Killings Hit by Women

Southern Chivalry' of That Type No Longer Wanted, Anti-Lynch Head Says

ATLANTA, Jan. 16 (AP)—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames said today white women of the South are rapidly forming opposition to "use of their skirts as blinds for Negro lynchings."

She said substantiation of her statement was gathered here this week at the first biennial session of the Association of Southern Women for the prevention of lynching. Mrs. Ames is director of the association.

"Economic creed is the cause of more lynchings than the protection of white women's honor," Mrs. Ames declared.

She said 35,000 women in 13 southern states have signed pledges to fight lynching.

"For years crimes have been committed in the South in the name of women without cause," Mrs. Ames said. "White women of the South now are realizing this is a travesty on justice and a slur on their honor."

She said the days when "Southern chivalry" can be used as the legal excuse for "summarily putting to death a Negro that some person or group does not like" are numbered.

Map Vigorous Campaign

Representatives of women's organizations from the Southern states mapped a vigorous campaign to prevent lynching in the South this year.

Their method is to expose the facts.

"The hush-hush system is outmoded," said Mrs. Ames. "We are letting white women know the truth about so-called attacks by Negroes, since most of them are fictional."

The association does not favor anti-lynching legislation, Mrs. Ames said, because the organization is non-political. The ssociation seeks merely to destroy "the fiction about the necessity for lynching."

Mrs. Ames came to Georgia seven years ago from her native Texas. She began the association for the prevention of lynching the following year.

Small of stature with greyish hair, she is a widow and the mother of three children.

She says her inspiration to fight the "mystical ignorance" connected with lynching sprang from an incident of childhood.

"There was a notorious lynching case in east Texas," she said, "about which the cook and the yard man were talking. I overheard that the man was burned to death with hot irons, but when I asked for more details I was hushed. For years I imagined a man laid out on an ironing board and slowly pressed."

Danville, Va., Register
January 17, 1937

WOMEN DEPLORE NEGRO LYNCHINGS

Mrs. Jessie Ames Says Southern Women Oppose Using Their Skirts as Cause

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Charleston, S. C.; Evening Post
January 14, 1937

See Program as Ending Lynching

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Meeting in biennial convention here, leaders of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, declared the stamping out of farm tenancy and sharecropping would go far to remove the underlying causes of mob rule.

"Lynching has been the method by which white people have maintained what they considered control over the negro," Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, told the United Press.

"This mob rule largely has been exercised by the poorer classes—especially tenants and sharecroppers—who have had no other means to show their superiority. With more even distribution of land and greater land ownership among these poorer classes, the need for lynchings will largely disappear."

Lynch law has caused the death of 92 persons in the United States in the past six years—all but a dozen occurred in the south. The peak year was 1933, when 28 persons were taken from officers and slain by mobs.

Number Drops

Last year the number dropped to nine—six in Georgia and one each in Mississippi, Arkansas and Florida.

Mrs. Ames attributed the large number in 1933 to the effect in the south of the NRA.

"The NRA, in spite of its high motives, increased antagonisms of the employers, as well as the poorer classes, because of the higher wages which they were forced to pay negroes," she said. "The RA and its work will have just the opposite effect."

The association organized in 1930, outlined a four-point program for the next two years. It includes holding of institutes in various southern cities, propaganda to be fostered in one-act plays in colleges and little theaters, efforts to secure cooperation of sheriffs and other officers, and a campaign among youth.

"In many cases, officers have surrendered victims of lynchings to mobs which they could have avoided by greater precautions and transfers of prisoners to other jails," Mrs. Ames said. "We are carrying on a campaign now to secure active cooperation of officers for greater efforts to avoid mobs."

The director said the association would continue efforts to pass a federal law against lynchings, although the primary fight must be made to change the southern white man's attitude by appeal to reason rather than by law.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
January 14, 1937

LYNCHING END

Seen in Rural Resettlement Plan.

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Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
January 14, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING SOCIETY REPORTS CO-OPERATION

ATLANTA, Jan. 13 (AP). — State chairmen reported a growing increase in co-operation by peace officers in preventing lynchings as the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching opened its fifth annual conference here today.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director of the association, presided at the opening session, attended by representatives from twelve southern states.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
January 12, 1937

Anti-Lynch Group To Present Plays

Two prize-winning plays, entitled "Country Sunday", and "Lawd, Does Yo' Undahstan"? will be presented at 7:45 o'clock Wednesday at the Peachtree Christian Church.

Members of the Community Players group of Nashville and students from Paine College, Augusta, will make up the cast.

Both plays are presented under auspices of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. The public is invited.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 17, 1937

Women of South Are Tired of 'Chivalry' As Excuse for Lynching, Says Mrs. Ames

By the Associated Press.

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Their method is to expose the facts.

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The association does not favor anti-lynching legislation, Mrs. Ames said, because the organization is non-political. The association seeks merely to destroy "the fiction about the necessity for lynching."

Mrs. Ames came to Georgia seven years ago from her native Texas. She began the Association for the Prevention of Lynching the following year.

Small of stature, with greyish hair, she is a widow and the mother of three children.

She says her inspiration to fight the "hysterical ignorance" connected with lynching sprang from an incident of childhood.

"There was a notorious lynching case in east Texas," she said, "about which the cook and the yard man were talking. I overheard that the man was burned to death with hot irons, but when I asked for more details I was hushed. For years I imagined a man laid out on an ironing board and slowly pressed."

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
February 23, 1937

Only 2 Lynchless Years In History Of Mississippi

The only recorded "lynchless" years in Mississippi were 1932 and 1936, according to a statement just released by Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the Mississippi Council of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Alford says:

"Lynching, like slavery, will be relegated to the past. The Association for the prevention of Lynching grew out of the recognition by church women of the need for a continuous educational program against lynching.

"The Mississippi Council has carried its message into ten of our outstanding state colleges and universities in the past year. More than half of the sheriffs of the state have endorsed the program and are actively co-operating to the end that mob violence may be eliminated and lynching eradicated.

Every state in the South has an active council and the Association has grown from 12 women and no organization committed to a specific program of activity in November 1930, to 32,331 women and hundreds of men, including officials, ministers, teachers, and 58 National and state organizations in 1936.

"The Association believes a continuous program of education against lynching carried on day by day in the home, in the school, in the press and in the church will end lynching by public demand."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 27, 1937

EDUCATION TO BE TRIED TO PREVENT LYNCHINGS

JACKSON, Miss., May 26 (AP).—As the Mississippi council of the Southern Society for Prevention of Lynching prepared for a state-wide meeting here tomorrow night, Mrs. L. W. Alford, of McComb, state chairman, said the society in Mississippi hopes to eradicate lynchings through "an educational program."

"We are not in favor of the federal antilynching bill now before congress, Mrs. Alford said. "We do not believe this is the way to correct this social and racial problem. Through education and the awakening of a public consciousness against this great social evil we hope to eliminate mob violence in the south."

Mobile, Ala., Press
May 28, 1937

STOP MOBS, ELSE UNCLE SAM WILL

Congress Member Tells Mississippi Woman, Considering Lynchers

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss., May 28.—Mississippians pondered today a stern warning from Rep. Hatton W. Sumners, Democrat, Texas, that unless southern states suppress lynching "the federal government is going to step in and take a hand, whether we wish it or not."

The Texas representative chairmans the House judiciary committee and fought the Gavagan anti-lynching measure before it passed the House. The bill is pending in the Senate.

Addressing a lightly attended state-wide meeting of the Mississippi Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, Representative Sumners said:

"If we are so incapable of governing that we must, by community action, turn our negro criminals over to the mob to punish rather than by orderly process of law, then how can we expect to be sovereign?

Plenty Agitation

"There was never more agitation for federal intervention in preventing lynchings," he said. "At the present session of Congress, there were 59 or 60 anti-lynching bills introduced.

"It's time southern states took some action. I don't want the federal government to enter this field because our government is not from Washington down, but from the people up, but we of the South are not going to retain our power unless we use it.

"In this time when the federal government is doing everything, and looking for more things to do, when even we want to build a pig pen we have to go off and get some government fellow to inspect it and look at it, and maybe pay for it—in a time like this, the people must demonstrate their ability to govern themselves."

Study Virginia Law

Sumners suggested Mississippians study Virginia's anti-lynching law in view of enacting similar legislation.

The council meeting was called by Mrs. L. W. Alford of McComb, state chairman, who explained that the Society for the Prevention of Lynching was organized in Atlanta seven years ago by a dozen southern women.

She said its aim is to "seek through education in the schools, churches and homes to eradicate lynchings as a social monstrosity that will not be tolerated in civilized society."

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
June 1, 1937

Anti-Lynching Council Plans Two Sessions

Association of Southern Women to Hold Open Meeting Tonight.

Meetings will be held tonight and tomorrow by the Florida Council of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, it was announced yesterday by Mrs. William P. Cornell, council chairman.

An open meeting will be held at 8 o'clock tonight in the First Methdist Church, and an executive meeting of the council will be held in the Community House of St. John's Episcopal Church at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

A prize play, "Lord, Does Yo' Undahstan?," will be presented by the dramatic department of Edward Waters College, as a feature of the meeting tonight. The one-act play, it was said, portrays a phase of the lynching problem.

Mrs. Cornell will make a talk on the aims and activities of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching at the open meeting. Anyone interested in the work of the association is invited to attend the meeting.

The executive session tomorrow morning will be devoted to a statement of the work of the association and to a round table discussion of the objectives to be adopted in Florida during 1937, it was stated. Those who will attend the executive meeting are Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. Ernest L. Vordermark, Mrs. M. M. Salvo, Mrs. Israel L. Kaplan, Mrs. O. O. McCullum and Mrs. Edward P. Pfaff.

William A. Hallowes III, State's attorney-elect of the Fourth Judicial Circuit, is scheduled to speak on "The Law and Control of Lynching," at the noon luncheon of the council.

Lynchings - 1937
Discussions -

Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings -
5581

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 14, 1937

Leaders in Anti-Lynching Association Confer Here

Associated Press Photo.

With a general increase in membership reported, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, led by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, right, opened its fifth annual conference here yesterday. Shown above, seated, left to right, Mrs. L. W. Alford, McComb, Miss.; Mrs. W. A. Newell, Salisbury, N. C.; Mrs. M. E. Tilly, Atlanta, and Mrs. G. E. Davis, Orangeburg, S. C. Standing, left to right, Mrs. W. A. Turner, Newnan, Ga.; Mrs. W. P. Cornell, Jacksonville, Fla.; Mrs. James A. Richardson, Richmond, Va., and Mrs. Ames, of Atlanta.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
January 14, 1937

Public "Hangings Rapped By Women in Parley Here

Public hangings and "circus showings" of capital punishment were condemned by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, convening Wednesday in Atlanta.

Association members, including outstanding women from Southern States, said the resolution they adopted was directed principally at a Kentucky statute which provides public hangings for persons guilty of criminal attack and Mississippi and Louisiana laws which prescribe public executions for violations of specific laws.

Reporting 6,000 new members have been enrolled in 1936, Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames, association director, said 77 organizations with a membership totaling more than four million were co-operating in the group's program against lynching.

ANTI-LYNCH GROUP HITS PUBLIC DEATH

Association Opposes Execution of Criminals in View of All Comers.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching went on record yesterday in opposition to public executions.

Members said a resolution they indorsed was aimed principally at a Kentucky law which provides public execution of persons sentenced to death for criminal assault, and statutes which make possible public hangings in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, director, told the association at its convention here more than 6,000 members were added in the past year, bringing the total membership to 35,000.

She said 77 organizations, representing a membership of 4,000,000, were co-operating in its program against lynching.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
January 17, 1937

FIGHT LYNCHING IN SOUTHLAND

White Women Oppose "Use of Their Skirts as Blinds" For Killings.

ATLANTA, Jan. 16.—(AP)—Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames said today white women of the South are rapidly forming opposition to "the use of their skirts as blinds for negro lynchings."

She said substantiation of her statement was gathered here this week at the first biennial session of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Mrs. Ames is director of the association.

"Economic creed is the cause of more lynchings than the protection of white women's honor," Mrs. Ames declared.

She said 35,000 women in 13 Southern States have signed pledges to fight lynching.

"For years, crimes have been committed in the South in the name of women without cause," Mrs. Ames said. "White women of the South now are realizing this is a travesty on justice and a slur on their honor."

She said the days when "Southern chivalry" can be used as the legal excuse for "summarily putting to death a negro that some person or group does not like" are numbered.

Representatives of women's organizations from the Southern States mapped a vigorous campaign to prevent lynching in the South this year.

"The hush-hush system is outmoded," said Mrs. Ames. "We are letting white women know the truth about so-called attacks by negroes, since most of them are fictional."

The association does not favor anti-lynching legislation, Mrs. Ames said, because the organization is non-political. The association seeks merely to destroy "the faction about the necessity for lynching."

Mrs. Ames came to Georgia seven years ago from her native Texas. She began the Association for the Prevention of Lynching the following year.

Small of stature with greyish hair, she is a widow and the mother of three children.

She says her inspiration to fight the "hysterical ignorance" connected with lynching sprang from an incident of childhood.

"There was a notorious lynching case in east Texas," she said, "about which the cook and the yard man were talking. I overheard that the man was burned to death with hot irons, but when I asked for more details I was hushed. For years I imagined a man laid out on an ironing board and slowly pressed."

Newport News, Va. Press
January 17, 1937

PREDICTS WOMEN NOT TO LEND AID TO FALSE IDEAS

Texan Says Use of Skirts As Blinds For Lynchings To Be Thing Of Past In Southland

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Atlanta, Ga. Journal
January 17, 1937

Greed Called Cause Of Most Lynchings In Southern States

By Associated Press

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McComb, Miss. Journal
January 13, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING SOCIETY TO MEET

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching will hold a one-day meeting at the University of Southern Carolina January 16.

The meeting is being sponsored by the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and the University's Department of Sociology. The association has 32,331 members in 58 chapters. The organization's chief contention is that lynchings are not necessary for the protection of southern womanhood.

During the past year an excellent record in regard to the prevention of lynching was established. An editorial in the Vicksburg Post has this to say on the subject:

"One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

"Furthermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings, and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, 69 people—all but seven of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

"It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact which northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out."

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 15 ,1937

ANTI-LYNCH GROUP HEARS SOCIOLOGIST

South Can Work Out Race Relations Problem, Says Floridan.

Dr. L. M. Bristol, head of the department of sociology at the University of Florida, told the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching here yesterday: "The south is capable of working out its own salvation with reference to race relations."

Commenting on "a strong federal anti-lynching law" he said was proposed by the National Conference on Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth in Washington, Dr. Bristol said:

"I am not in favor of such a law unless approved by such organizations as this (the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching) which are representative of the best thought in the south."

A resolution expressing opposition to public executions was approved by the association Wednesday.

Florence, S. C., News
January 15 ,1937

THAT—The Association of Southern Women for the prevention of Lynching opposes public executions. And just why they base their objections is not clear. Lynchings are not supposed to be public. Legal executions must have witnesses.

Lynchburg, Va. News
January 17, 1937

Says South's Women Rapidly Opposing Use Of Skirt As Blind For Lynchings

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Baton Rouge, La., Advocate
January 19, 1937

Anti-Lynching Campaign Waged by Dixie Women

To Explode Myth Concerning Reported Need for White Men Taking Law in Own Hands.

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FLORIDA GOVERNOR PUTS OKEY ON LYNCHING

Governor Cone, in New York Interview, Also Admits Florida Helpless to Curb Mobs and Welcomes Federal Action

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.
10-22-37 New York, N.Y.

New York, Oct. 22.- In an amazing statement here October 21, Governor Fred P. Cone, of Florida put his personal approval upon lynching.

A delegation of representatives of liberal and church organizations went to the Waldorf Astoria to question Governor Cone about the failure of Florida to prosecute the six Tampa policemen who flogged Joseph Shoemaker to death in December, 1935.

Governor Cone astounded his visitors by saying:

"Anybody comes down to Florida and tries to overthrow the Government of the United States, they ought to be rode out of Florida on a rail.

"I'm in favor of the laborin' man. I've always been a friend of the workin' man. But if anybody comes down there and tries to upset the Government, they ought to be rode on a rail. They ought to be hung to the nearest lamp post.

"David Clendennin, of the Workers' Defense League, looked at Governor Cone in amazement.

"Mr. Governor, you as an executive of the State of Florida approve of people taking the law into their own hands?" he asked.

"Any people like that ought to be hung to the nearest lamp post," the Governor repeated.

"Would you take part in such a thing," Mr. Clendennin asked.

"Anybody came down to my house and I didn't want 'em, I wouldn't go to the law," said the Governor. "I'd take the law into my own hands."

After explaining that Florida had done everything it could do in the Shoemaker case, Governor Cone, in answer to an inquiry, said he would welcome federal agents into Florida to look into the case.

When informed of Governor Cone's statement, the N.A.A.C.P. pounced upon it as proving the necessity for a federal anti-lynching bill, since Governor Cone in one breath had admitted both that the state was unable to do anything about lynching and that he would welcome federal action.

There have been three lynchings in Florida in 1937 and two of them occurred four blocks from the state capitol where Governor Cone has his office.

Nothing whatsoever has been done by the state or local authorities to apprehend and punish the lynchers.

In addition to the Shoemaker case in 1935 and the three lynchings of 1937, the police of Miami, Fla., last July shot and killed Stafford Dames, Jr., on the porch of his mother's home, without excuse. The city of Miami has refused to anything about the Dames killing and a coroner's jury held that the boy had been killed by the police "in the performance of duty". Young Dames was at the altar boy in a church and the police claim they saw him trying to break into the church.

Because the father of the slain boy has employed counsel to take the case to court and has enlisted the aid of the N.A.A.C.P. and the American Civil Liberties Union, the police have been hound-

ing Mr. Dames and trying to get him discharged as Miami manager for Afro-American Life Insurance company.

In a statement following the interview with Governor Cone here, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, said:

"The record of certain states in failure to punish lynchings has been great enough before now and those of us studying the lynching problem have always known that lynchings have been permitted by the minor officials of some states and counties. We know, also, that some governors and attorneys general of states could have acted if they had chosen to do so, for N.A.A.C.P. records show that in a number of cases, we have furnished the names of lynchers to attorneys general and governors and nothing has happened.

"However, this is the first time that a governor, even of a southern state, within the last ten or fifteen years, has openly approved lynching. The late Governor Rolph of California in 1933 promissd to pardon lynchers, but Gov. Cone has advocated hanging by mobs. In the old days before lynching had been so widely condemned, Governor Cole Blease of South Carolina, approved lynching and Governor Theodore Bilbo, now Senator Bilbo, of Mississippi approved lynching. In recent years, no governor has made a statement as bold and vicious as that of Governor Cone's.

"This statement by the governor of a state demonstrates conclusively that if lynching is to be checked, we must have a federal anti-lynching law so that the government of the United States can safeguard the lives and constitutional rights of citizens in the states."

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Governor Has No Report On 'Duck Hill' Lynchings

Promise of Investigation Six Months Ago by Gov. White Not Kept Because 'Officials Have Not Sent Him Report' of the Crime.

NEW YORK, Oct. 14—A report on the double blow torch lynching which occurred April 13 at Duck Hill, Miss. has not been received as yet by Governor Hugh White of Mississippi, the N. A. A. C. P. was advised last week.

Two colored men were lynched at Duck Hill April 13 on suspicion that they had murdered a white grocery store owner. Before being killed both men were tied to trees, stripped and their flesh seared with blow torch flames. The double lynching occurred on the very afternoon that Governor White was speaking to a farm conference meeting in another part of the state and boasting to an audience that Mississippi had been free from lynching for many months. It was such a shocking and barbaric exhibition that Governor White immediately issued orders for a complete investigation.

Since that order was issued nothing has been heard from the lynching and on September 30 Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., wrote Governor White inquiring whether or not a report had been received. Buck Hancock, private secretary to Governor White wrote the N. A. A. C. P.: "Governor White directs me to advise you that he has not yet received any official report from the officials of Duck Hill concerning the affair of last April."

TENNESSEE SORRY ABOUT COVINGTON'S 'CRIME'

Grand Jury Makes Speech About Its Inability to Identify Murderers of Albert Gooden, Charged With Shooting Marshal.

10-16-37

COVINGTON, Tenn., Oct. 14 — (Special) — Concluding its investigation of the first lynching in Tipton county since the Civil War, that of Albert Gooden, 35-year-old, which occurred on the night of August 16, the grand jury reported to Judge R. B. Baptist "with sincere regret" that it had been unable to establish the identity of any of the six masked men who took Gooden from the custody of Sheriff W. J. Vaughan and after hanging him from a creek bridge, riddled his body with bullets.

In its report to Judge Baptist, the grand jury said: "We are convinced from the proof that it is the most atrocious crime that has ever been committed in our county and a blot upon a history of which we have been justly proud, and it is with sincere regret that we are compelled to report to the court that we have been unable to establish the identity of any of those engaged in the commission of this crime."

Gooden, charged with the fatal shooting of Night Marshal Chester Doyle, of Mason, in a raid on a crap game, was being brought here from Memphis for arraignment when he was taken from the sheriff, who had the prisoner with him in his car, by a band of six masked men in another car which the sheriff said crowded his machine to the roadside, forcing him to stop. The men, he said, compelled him at the points of guns to surrender Gooden, who put up a fight, but was thrown in the other automobile and driven away.

The next morning Gooden's body was found beneath a highway bridge near here, lying half in, half out, of the muddy waters of a creek. His manacled wrists and ankles had been tightly bound and a piece of plow-line was knotted about his neck. Scores of bullet wounds marked his body. Investigators reached the conclusion the lynchers had first hanged him to the bridge and then opened fire. A bullet or bullets from one or more of the weapons eventually severing the plow-line, a frayed section of which was found tied about one of the bridge beams.

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Sen. Bailey Blames War For Mob Law

North Carolinian Says North and South Conflict Started Lynch Wave

Senator Josiah W. Bailey, of North Carolina, blamed the Civil War for lynchings in the South during a statement on the floor of the Senate Monday while the upper house of Congress was discussing an anti-lynching amendment to a freight car bill.

Senator Bailey in defending his and other southern Senators' opposition to the measure said:

"We have taken the view about this lynching bill that in the first place it would tend to arrest the progress in suppressing the crime of lynching. We think a very great deal of progress has been made. Forty years ago there were perhaps four or five hundred lynchings a year in the South. That was very distressing very disgraceful; but we have reduced that number, my fellow Senators, to about eight or nine a year. I bring that fact to your attention by way of showing that we have acted in good faith about the matter, and made great progress.

Blames War

"How did all this lynching business begin? Nobody thought of lynching Negroes prior to the Civil War. You never heard of a lynching in the South prior to 1861. You did not hear of any lynchings in the South of Negroes or of anybody else during the Civil War. It may have been difficult for us to maintain order down there under the circumstances, but we maintained order. There were no lynchings in the war period. How did this matter of lynching come? I will tell you it came, and I think it ought to be made a record of history.

"When the Federal forces struck down the institutions of law and order in the South, and sent the carpetbaggers and the scalawags down there to take charge of our society, and protect them with the bayonets of Federal soldiers after the surrender, the white people of the South had to take the law in their hands. I am sorry it was so. It was a distressful period; but those misguided men—I will speak in that way about them; I will not say anything bad, but will just say that they were misguided men—took charge of our civilization, struck down the accepted and ancient standards of law and order and fired the Negro's mind with all sorts of unworthy ambitions.

Policed South

"They told him that he was to take charge of the white man's land. He was to have 40 acres and a mule. They told him that he was to take charge of the Government. He was to be the policeman, he was to be the postmaster; and Negroes did get to be policemen and postmasters. They told him that he was to rule his former masters.

"I do not blame the Negro about that. Poor fellow! He was an ex-slave. He was ignorant. He had the spark of humanity in him. He was ambitious. I would not quarrel with him. He was misled by people who said they had been his friends, and they had been party to the great war which had brought him his freedom. They talked to him in the name of the great Lincoln, the Emancipator, and they even got into his mind the idea that he could marry with the white people. The sense of law and order which had existed in the slave was dissipated by the agitator and the scoundrel.

Lynching Resulted

"What could we do? We did not have charge of the police. They had charge. We did not have the legislatures. The carpetbaggers had the legislatures. We could not enforce the law, because we did not have the weapons of the law, ad so the southern white men and the southern white women rose up to protect themselves and their society, their homes and their children and their civilization. That was outside the law and whenever action of that sort goes outside of the law, it goes beyond bounds. Whenever the forms of law are abandoned, the extremists get charge. We have a current instance of that in the United States today. Whenever the strikers and the picketers have broken down the law, the vigilante has appeared, and he always will.

He is Sorry

"Out of that movement in the South in what we call the reconstruction days there naturally developed unrestrained men who were acting under great emotions. They abandoned the forms of law because the forms of law were controlled by scalawags and carpetbaggers and Negroes, and the forms of law were worthless.

"Very well. When they did that they went to extremes, and they did develop this idea of lynching. I regret it. I deplore it. I abhor it. I hate it. I am humiliated by it; but I am saying to you it was not in the southern people."

Washington D.C.
7-28-37

Editorial of the Week

(From the Bristol, Va. Herald Courier, Aug. 2, 1937)

Lynching And State Rights

Some two months ago a mob took two Negroes from jail in a Mississippi town, carried them into the country, tied them to trees and seared their flesh with a blow-torch. One of the Negroes died under the torture and the other was shot to death. As we recall, neither of these victims of mob brutality was accused of a capital crime.

From Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.

The State's Attorney-General of Mississippi, acting under instructions from the Governor, instituted impeachment proceedings against the Sheriff of the county in which this outrage was committed, charging him with neglect of duty, cowardly conduct, and perhaps connivance with the mobsters. The officer was acquitted but, although he stated that he recognized some of the members of the mob, nothing further has been done.

8-20-37

Some two weeks since a mob took two Negroes from jail in Florida, carried them into the country and shot them to death. Neither of them had committed a crime for which death is or should be the penalty. The Sheriff seemed not to know much about the incident or to be seriously disturbed by it. The Governor of Florida said the killing of these Negroes was not a lynching, but murder, but so far as known no effort has been made to find the lynchers or murderers.

A dispatch from Statesville, N.C., says a crowd of about 125 white men rode into that town in thirty automobiles early yesterday, surrounded the county jail, and demanded that Sheriff John White Moore turn over a Negro prisoner accused of assaulting a white woman. The crowd disbanded after the Sheriff took three of the men inside

the jail and convinced them that the prisoner they wanted was not there. He had been spirited away to an undisclosed jail.

A lynching was averted at Statesville because precautionary measures had been taken for the protection of the prisoner sought by the mob. Probably most mob murders could be averted in the same way. Despite the fact that any Negro arrested for almost any offense in some sections of the South is in danger of the mob, the responsible police authorities do not take steps to safeguard the lives of such prisoners and give them their day in court. Yet that is a part of their sworn duty. New York, N.Y.

The Senate has before it an anti-lynching bill which has already passed the House. Opposition to this measure comes mostly from Senators and Representatives from the South, the section of country in which nearly all of the mob murders occur and which should welcome Federal aid in the suppression of mob lawlessness. Prospects now are that legislative action on this bill will not be completed by a Congress confronted with other important measures and impatient to adjourn, but there also are prospects that if it fails of passage at this session it will be passed at the next session.

Protests that a Federal anti-lynching law would infringe the rights of the States have ceased to be impressive in the face of continued mob outrages and the failure of the States to uphold their laws and punish those crimes.

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SOUTHERN PAPER, FOR ANTI-LYNCH
BILL, SAYS MOBS WOULD FEAR G-MEN

Although Mississippi Lynching Is Deplored, Many Dixie Dailies Still Oppose Federal Legislation.

CHICAGO, April 22—(ANP)—"Few of us think in na-k is incumbent upon Southern
ional terms when neighborhood passions flare. But we can senators and representatives to de
be made to think in those terms. Vi mand that any extension of federal
lege r police powers be made to cover the
in extra beat of the pulse, but in better plan would be to train ers in responsiveness to law
Mississippi, Oregon and waypoints, which are of their own making;
they think twice before tackling the other would be to get law en
the post office. That's 'federal forcement officers who would ful
stuff,' and the consequences of all their duties."
that ar
body's hatred of anything similar distinction to violate the Mann Act, to dabble in the narcotic traffic and to take action against the automobile thieves across state lines. That point is the Lynch ing mobs are composed of ama urs in crime, not professionals lot of them would not hanker after an investigation by G-Men."

Effective Technique

So said an editorial last week in the New Orleans Tribune, a leading daily in the Southern metropolis, which at the same time condemned the Mississippi lynching and advocated passage of a federal anti-lynching law. The Tribune further pointed out, "If the 150 or more Mississippians who burned to death two Negro prisoners, Will Williams and Henry Shields, Tuesday had plotted to these gentlemen could be tried under anti-lynch law through Cob and abet the lyncher now? Would they could hardly have the frightful agonies of yesterday's adopted a more effective technique than the ghastly procedure they chose."

Although daily papers all over the South condemned the atrocity of them being debated in Congress or any other bit of federal anti-lynching legislation.

Gangland Killers, Too

Said the New Orleans Times-Picayune, "So shocking were all the circumstances attending Tuesday's lynching in Mississippi that appeal which asserted, 'Coming at the crime will do the State and time when anti-lynching bills the entire South much harm. Were up in Congress, the Mississippi will suffer additionally harm. Wejmobbing may try the balance and prefer to pass federal legislation to the enactment of an anti-lynching law, despite the fact that the circumstances of the Duck Hill lynching prove the impotence of such laws to prevent lynching as the rural mob."

Although the Jackson, Miss., Daily News, biggest paper in the state where the atrocity occurred, deplored the mob murders, it made a partial excuse for the lynchers by asserting, "Take into consideration the law's delay as a provocation. The atrocious crime for which these two Montgomery county Negroes were lynched occurred last December. Proof of guilt was conclusive, even though the defendants entered pleas of innocence."

Gulded By Humanity

On the edge of the Jim crow belt, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch editorialized, "If every state had an anti-lynching law such as that which Virginia has had for some 10 years, lynching could be, as the Richmond Times-Dispatch said recently, 'almost, if not wholly, obliterated.' Since enactment of the Virginia statute, which makes lynching a crime against the state and participants chargeable with murder, not a lynching has occurred with the state. But Southern Legislatures generally will not enact such laws and lynchings continue to occur.

"If Southern congressmen were guided by simple humanity, they would welcome the present opportunity to remove this blot against their section of the nation. Disorderly crime against an ordered society should invoke prompt punishment of the

(From the Elizabeth City, (N.C.) Daily Independent

Congress Must Act

Any Southern Congressman who opposes Federal anti-lynching legislation after Tuesday's sadistic orgy at Duck Hill, Miss. should hang his head in shame. Greensboro N.A.A.C.P.

Local and State authorities can not always cope with the lynchers. Often as not local authorities are afraid to resist the mob. Mobs vote. New York, N.Y.

The Alabama sheriff and two deputies who released two young Negroes to that Mississippi mob in broad daylight Tuesday assert that they did not recognize any member of the mob, "because they were back to them and didn't see them". Obviously the confession of weaklings and liars.

That Mississippi mob of white hellians brought a new instrument of torture into play Tuesday. After chaining their victims to trees they turned flaming blow torches on them, inflicting them with horrible pain before riddling their bodies with bullets.

Wild Indians of the western plains in the 19th century would not have practiced more barbaric or diabolical cruelty.

And we call ourselves a Christian people,

If Lynch Law is to be put down in America, the strong arm of the Federal government, unafraid of cringing, cowardly, acquiescent local officials and their lousy constituents, must see to it. The fair name of America is besmirched on the front page of every newspaper in Europe and Asia today. The Federal government must take steps to protect its name abroad.

Still Alabama

The Call

An Alabama sheriff who allowed his Negro prisoner to be lynched was acquitted recently when tried for neglect of duty. That is old stuff. Officers who connive with or yield to mobs are typical. The oddity of this case is that the state tried to secure a conviction by offering to prove that the wrong man was lynched.

The "wrong" man is lynched whenever a lynching occurs. But this is the first time Alabama has tried to get that fact written into a court record. The right man suffers the penalty of the law only when he is convicted after fair trial. Any other conditions preceding his punishment are prima facie evidence that he is the "wrong" man.

Kansas City, Missouri 6-11-37

In the gory annals of lynching are written the summary killing of Negroes admitted to be only relatives of the allegedly guilty. Several have been put to death on numerous occasions when it was known that only one was guilty, the mob acting on the theory that it was better that many innocent should suffer rather than one guilty should escape.

Lynching is pure barbarism, not to be defended on any grounds. It occurs in states where official as well as private conscience is dead. After it is an accomplished fact, the community that permitted it will never convict either the slayers or the officials who should have guarded life. Alabama by acquitting a negligent sheriff proves it is still Alabama.

Protest Over Assault On Child Leads To Duck Hill Episode

CLARKSDALE, Miss., July 16—The vicinity of Duck Hill, scene of the brutal blow-torch double lynching which stirred the nation a short while back, was in broke public display the last week when it went on another rampage to satisfy its barbaric lust for blood.

In this instance it is believed the entire family of James Lewis, tenant farmer on the Charles Anderson plantation, two miles southeast of here, was either burned alive in their home or fell into the hands of a mob which formed for the purpose of lynching Lewis who was charged with "speaking impertinently" to two white men who had, the day previously, beaten and raped his 13-year-old daughter.

As it was almost impossible to obtain first-hand testimony from the fear-stricken inhabitants of this God-forsaken area, the only source of information open to the press was the persistent rumors which continue to leak out of this community charging that a mass murder was actually perpetrated on the Anderson plantation at 2 a.m., Friday, July 2.

Tuesday just before deadline, into a newspaper office walked a thick-set bedraggled looking individual wearing a battered black hat pulled low over his face. It was James Lewis, 46, principal figure about whom Mississippi's latest lynching carnage is alleged to center.

His story of the harrowing incidents fell from lips grown bitter against inhuman Southern persecutions and the apparent indifference of the U. S. government. His version of the grim tragedy was given as follows:

Thursday morning, July 1, he sent his young daughter, Elizabeth, to the Anderson plantation store to purchase kerosene while he remained in the field to till as he has done for the past 19 years. Two hours later he looked up from his plow to see the battered and bleeding figure of the child dragging herself toward him where a moment later she collapsed in his arms.

Regaining consciousness the girl whispered through puffed and lacerated lips, that upon reaching the Anderson store she had been accosted by John, one of the four Anderson brothers, and one of the family's white employees, both of whom made indecent advances

PROTEST OVER RAPE OF CHILD STARTS CLASH

Duck Hill Vicinity Again Writes History In Savagery

(Continued from Page 1)

When she refused to submit the men dragged her to one of the barns where after beating her unmercifully, each attacked her while the other held the helpless on the barn floor.

The mother, Harriet, collapsed upon hearing the story and Lewis, knowing the delicacy of the situation, waited until the following morning before going to the Anderson home to protest the ravashing of his child.

After lodging his complaint with the Anderson family he returned to the field—and an hour later as he sat brooding on the handle of his plow was approached by John Anderson who violently voiced his objection to being called to account by a "black s....." proceeded to beat Lewis with a heavy stick he had brought along but Lewis seized the stick and knocked him down.

The following morning, Friday, July 2, before daybreak, John returned to the Lewis home accompanied by a mob of 200 white hoodlums, who set fire to his barns, killing 4 mules, 50 hogs and over 100 chickens. They then set about battering in the door of the Lewis residence, but were greted by volleys of shot-gun slugs fired from windows of the home. Lewis, seeking to center the mob's attention upon himself and thus permit his family to escape, dashed from the house and fled toward a nearby woods in which the mob lost track of him.

Today Lewis is roaming the streets of a northern city, awaiting word that will tell him the fate of his family consisting of two daughters, a wife and four sons, who will probably not survive if the blood-lust of the savage south is to be satisfied once more.

Mr. Lewis asked that the press withhold names of his sons as a modicum of protection for them in the event his family did succeed in escaping.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

Negro Press, Northern.

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GEORGIA IN THE LEAD

Georgia leads again. Not in education, of course. Certainly not in culture, except among a few colored people. Nor is Georgia leading in per capita wealth, in public libraries, in health, in [illegible]ology, in child welfare, or any of the other evidences of civilization.

What Georgia leads in for 1936 is lynching. Out of the 13 mob murders, five occurred in what is perhaps appropriately called "The Empire State of the South." Of course none of the murderers were sought or apprehended.

Either the mob spirit was dormant or prospective mob victims were elusive in 1934 and 1935 in Georgia, for she only lynched a total of three during those two years. Mississippi clinched the pennant both years with six victims in 1934 and eight in 1935.

But last year Georgia took her rightful position at the head of lynchdom, proudly waving the skull and crossbones as her state ensign. Arkansas and Michigan came next with two each, but the former favorites, Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas trailed with one each. Singularly enough South Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana, former sweepstakes winners, failed to place.

It is not improbable that fear of hostile legislation caused the devotees of this American folkway to lie low for a little while until Congress got out of the mood. But Georgia with her irrepressible exuberance (or cussedness) wouldn't let even fear of an anti-lynching law stop her fun.

There is one thing of which we may be sure: if an anti-lynching law is passed making counties pay several thousand dollars for staging each lynching, the barbarous pastime will soon vanish, even along Tobacco Road.

U. S. DODGES ISSUE IN NEAL LYNCHING CASE

Attorney - General Cummings Refuses to Apply Kidnaping Law

NEW YORK.— In response to an inquiry from the N. A. A. C. P. on why the G-Men were used in the Harry Brunette case and not used in the Claude Neal lynching in October, 1934, Attorney General Homer S. Cummings continues to dodge the issue.

In a letter to the N. A. A. C. P. this week he cites the case of Gooch vs the United States as the reason why the G-men could not in the Gooch case (and by inference in the Brunette case) and could not act in the Claude Neal case.

In the Gooch case, Gooch kidnaped two officers of the law at Paris, Texas, for the purpose of preventing Gooch's arrest by the officers, and carried them to Oklahoma. Gooch was run down by the G-men and sentenced to death under the federal kidnaping law.

Renders Decision

In rendering a decision on this case Mr. Justice McReynolds of the United States supreme court held:

> Holding an officer to prevent the captor's arrest is something done with the expectation of benefit to the transgressor. So also is kidnaping with purpose to secure money. These benefits, while not the same, are similar in their general nature and the desire to secure either of them may lead to kidnaping. If the word "reward," as commonly understood, is not itself broad enough to include benefits expected to follow the preventon of an arrest, they fall within the broad term "otherwise."

In the Brunette case a New Jersey state trooper was kidnaped and taken to Pennsylvania, not to prevent the arrest of Brunette, but for murder. Brunette was dissuaded from killing the officer by his woman companion.

Although this case is not a parallel to the Gooch case in that Brunette was not seeking any reward (either in the form of money or of benefit to himself) yet the G-men again went in and Brunette was captured and sent to prison for life.

Finds Memorandum

In its continued efforts to get the Department of Justice to act in the Neal lynching, the N. A. A. C. P. has found a memorandum submitted to the judiciary committee of the senate by the Department of Justice at the time the department was seeking an amendment to the kidnaping law. The amendment was to be the addition of the word "otherwise", making the law read: "held for ransom or reward or otherwise." In its memorandum to the senate committee the department of justice said:

> The object of the addition of the word "otherwise" is to extend the jurisdiction of this act to persons who have been kidnaped and held, not only for reward, but for any other reason.

The N. A. A. C. P. letter declares that ifthe Lindbergh act is to be interpreted in the narrow manner of the Gooch case, then the department had no authority for acting in the Brunette case; and that if the interpretation of the kidnaping law has been broadened by the department since the Gooch case so as to include the Brunette case then it must of necessity include the Neal lynching. The N. A. A. C. P. letter concludes:

> The action of the bureau of investigation in the Brunette case confirms the interpretation of the Lindbergh act as amended by the department of justice set out in your memorandum and carried out in the Gooch case and other similar cases. However, when a Negro is involved the department holds that the law does not apply and insists on a narrow interpretation contrary to its own memorandum to the United States senate as well as being directly inconsistent with actual administartion of the Lindbegh law by the department of justice.

Official Defends U.S. Failure to Act in Neal Lynching

Pulse Snatchers Get Long Pen Sentences

1-30-37

WASHINGTON

Criticism of the Department of Justice for failure to prosecute the lynchers of Claude Neal under the Lindbergh Kidnapping Law is unfair, Brien McMahon, an Assistant Attorney General, told the Washington Bar Association, Thursday night.

Mr. McMahon, who is in charge of the criminal division of the Justice Department, went to Jonesboro, Ark., in November and secured a Federal conviction of Paul D. Peacher, white planter-peace officer, for violating an 1866 anti-slavery statute.

Cites Technicality

He justified avoidance of the Neal case by the wording of the Lindbergh law, which makes it federal offense to transport across State lines persons unlawfully seized and "held for ransom or reward or otherwise"—some material advantage.

Distinguishing between the Neal case and the Arthur Gooch case, he cited the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, in the latter case that holding an officer to prevent arrest was a benefit.

Neal, was taken from an Alabama jail, October 27, 1934, into Florida and lynched. Gooch assisted in kidnapping two Texas police officers and took them into Oklahoma, fatally wounding one of them. He was hanged last June 19.

Lynchings Drop 90 Per Cent in 59 Yrs.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — Breaking down isolation in the South by increased facilities such as telephones, radios, paved roads, and telegraphs was given by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Saturday, as one of the three major factors causing a drop of 90 per cent in lynchings since 1887.

The other factors, he said, were disappearance of the frontier characteristics in the South and the increasing agitation in Dixie against lynchings.

The institute's department of records and research lists 1583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 151 in the 1927-1936 period. Each decade since the first reveals a decline in mob action.

Lynchings totaled 1030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 468 for the 1917-1926 period.

LYNCHING—PLAIN TALK

Memphis, Tenn. (Commercial Appeal) Thursday, April 15, 1937

The torture lynching of two Negroes at Duck Hill, Miss., is an unspeakable crime. Lynching at law is murder. But mob murder is often more than murder, it represents a relapse into a psychic state that it is an insult to primitive man to call savagery.

Every responsible official of Mississippi is put on the spot by this crime. It must be investigated and followed by the indictment and prosecution of the offenders, or the state will suffer a terrific loss of face. Coming on the heels of steady decline in the number of lynchings, the crime at Duck Hill is a crime against the whole South.

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The tendency of mobs to revert to torture and sadistic orgy is age-old and world-wide. In "The Crowd," Gustave Le Bon more than a generation ago explained that in a mob the individual intellect and individuality is dormant, superseded for the time being by the collective mob mind, which represents the lowest common denominator of human mentality.

Such a relapse evidently occurred at Duck Hill, where the use of a blow torch in torture rivaled the barbaric mutilations in the massacre of nonunion miners at Herrin, Ill., a few years ago. The blow torch as an instrument of torture has not yet been adopted by the degenerate gangsters of New York, who still prefer slowly to hack their victims with cold steel. Burning with cigar butts used to be a routine incident of being "taken for a ride" in the environs of Chicago, but the blow torch seems to be something new in sadistic technology.

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Coming at a time when anti-lynching bills are up in Congress, the Duck Hill lynching may tip the balance and lead to the enactment of an anti-lynching law, despite the fact that the circumstances of the Duck Hill lynching prove the impotence of such laws to prevent lynching. The theory of anti-lynching laws is twofold. Pecuniary penalties imposed on communities for lynchings are supposed to restrain the lynching urge. But what would a consideration like that have amounted to in the case of the infuriated mob at Duck Hill. The other part of the theory of anti-lynching laws is that by transferring the investigation of lynchings and the trial of offenders to outside tribunals such as federal courts, punishment can be had regardless of local public opinion or political pull. History is emphatic as to the fallacy of that. So far as the South is concerned, lynching got its greatest impetus at a time when military rule and federal force laws were in full flower, and in the nineties of the last century when the Lodge force bill was being pressed in Congress, lynching was rampant. In northern states where there are laws providing for the recovery of damages from counties and local communities by relatives of mob victims, there have been most atrocious mob murders.

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Sincere purpose to abate lynchings is almost entirely absent from the present propaganda for a federal anti-lynching law. Back of that movement—as every literate adult knows—are four elements.

(1) The remnant of the old Republican party machine seeking desperately to recover the Negro vote in the northern states through which it ruled the nation from the election of 1868, in which that vote first swung the balance.

(2) The Democratic political machines in big cities bidding against the G. O. P. for the same bloc vote.

(3) The Communist groups who have sought for more than 15 years to stir up racial strife North and South.

(4) The strangely assorted groups of psychopaths who take a morbid interest in lynchings and in characteristic crimes that lead to lynchings. These groups include many queer fish and epicene neurotics who swim in the stagnant social pools which have collected back of some of the great foundations and other endowments set up by doddering old men and women who had more money than sense.

The latter elements are not motivated at all by any desire to abate lynchings. The heavily financed propaganda against the social order of the South which was manifested in the Scottsboro case in Alabama and in the Herndon case in Atlanta are a dead giveaway as to that. An orderly court trial in the South stirs up the degenerate martyr complexes of these people as much as a lynching.

In view of the South baiting that accompanies all the agitation for federal anti-lynching laws, it is incumbent upon southern senators and representatives to make these facts clear upon the floors of the Houses of Congress, and to demand that any extension of federal police powers be made to cover the gang mobster of the city as well as the rural mob.

Declare Nothing Will Be Done About Blow-Torch Lynching Of 2

Mississippi Dailies Applaud Mob Rule; Flay Southern Editors For Joining With Critics Of South

NEW YORK CITY, May 14—Nothing will be done about the blow-torch double lynching at Duck Hill, Miss., on April 13, it was declared last week by the Indianola, Miss., Sunflower Tocsin.

"Nothing will ever come of any investigation the governor or anybody else will make and not one member of the mob will ever be arrested," the paper says in an editorial. "We do not condone lynchings, but if two persons ever deserved lynching, the two brutes at Duck Hill richly deserved what they got. We have no sympathy to waste on them. None whatever."

This editorial was cited by the NAACP as further proof, if any were still needed, that the Southern states—particularly in the deep South—will not ever do anything to stop lynching and punish lynchers and that, therefore, a federal anti-lynching law is necessary.

Applaud Mob Rule

The Jackson, Miss., Daily News of which the veteran Negro-hater, Colonel Frederick Sullens is editor, declared editorially that the outburst over the Duck Hill lynchings was "a lot of tommyrot."

The Columbus, Miss., Dispatch declared editorially that it was "sick and tired" of the South being blamed for lynchings and also that it was "sick and tired" of some Southern editors joining with the critics of the South.

These editorial expresions from Mississippi represent the opposite extreme from the editorials in more enlightened sections of the South. As a matter of fact, the Mississippi editorials and one or two from Alabama papers are the worst editorials in the whole country in favor of lynching.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

Negro Press, Southern.
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Kidnaping And Lynching

IN its stride of democracy the western hemisphere has laid down many fine examples for the old world, in the principles of government. The United States might well be cited as the capital empire of the New World. The early settlers, while not favorable to kings, in many ways incorporated in their basic laws the customs and rules of the mother country.

While the New World presented new endeavors and opened up the barren wilderness, it did not get far down the road before it stood out conspicuously to the rest of the world as being the most lawless nation on earth. While the search for religious freedom was the paramount emphasis of the majority of the colonists, it was also to be seen that so far as real religious principles were concerned, it was to stand out as a very irreligious group.

As to the common ethics of the nation and its respect for its basic laws let us take a look.

It is not uncommon to read in the press reports accounts of kidnaping and wanton lynchings. In fact it has gotten to the place where we expect in a periodic cycle the occurence of lynching and kidnaping. So accustomed are we to these evils, our statisticians have set ups for the keeping of facts, figures and circumstances leading up to these our major crimes and pastimes.

Kidnaping menaces the rich. Lynching tortures the poor. Both are crimes and against our organic law. Kidnapers carry on in the dark, demanding ransom for their victim and through their airtight organization carry on a contact with the outside world. Lynchers operate in broad day if they choose, unhooded and unmolested for the most. They send no flag of truce and receive none. They ask no quarter and give none.

Kidnaping goes on principally in rich sections where people are able to hand out heavy ransoms. Lynching is confined nearly totally to the old slave states where race prejudice is kept aflame and the color of a human's skin is the determining factor in whichever pursuit he shall engage—whether he shall survive or perish.

The federal government has made a death stroke to end kidnaping. In spite of state's rights, that precious heritage of the South, it has passed national laws making it a federal offense to kidnap. Since the incorporation of the anti-kidnaping law, kidnaping has been made almost unprofitable. With the marked money and the hounding of G-men kidnaping has reached a new low in this country.

Under the same premise dominating the anti-kidnap law, many friends of law and order have striven for many years to get over an anti-lynching bill. They have contended all along that lynchers get off too easily and that even if some one is apprehended, hardly any conviction has been recorded in the trials of lynchers.

Unless kidnaping can be termed as interstate commerce, or come under some such sub-head, a federal bill to curb lynching would be just as constitutional. Kidnaping and lynching are alike in principle. One seeks to cheat an individual while the other seeks to cheat the law. If one is prohibited nationally, the other should not be left out.

In spite of the drastic federal laws and their rigid investigators we have before us today a new kidnaping case. We also have a lynching case. As long as one is given preference and pronounced against the law, the twin brother is going to lurk around.

It will prove in the end, despite the geographical difference in the operations, that it is a waste of money and plain folly in any effort aimed at breaking up kidnaping for the rich while lynching, for the poor is allowed to go on unbridled and unhindered.

GOV. WHITE FINDS MISSISSIPPI HAD NO LYNCHINGS IN 1936

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 11 (ANP)—Mississippi has decided to whitewash itself and after an investigation by Gov. White, declared last week that there was not a single lynching within its borders during 1936.

The annual report released by Tuskegee, the most conservative of the yearly compilations, showed nine mob victims of which one was in this state. The governor, however, launched a probe and said that the killing in question was not a lynching but "a murder of a Negro by a bunch of drunken Negroes following a neighborhood quarrel."

Pleased at his findings, Gov. White addressed a letter to all the sheriffs in the state complimenting them and asking that they keep 1937 free from "lynch law." He said it was the first time this century that none had occurred in Mississippi.

A Sequence to Mob Law

THE States and Federal Governments have ignored—in spite of eloquent warnings from experts in mob psychosis—the grave consequences in giving the participants official impression that mob rule is beyond their jurisdiction.

Time and again it has been pointed out to the United States Attorney General, Congress, and the President, and to State judicial authorities, that the policy of giving preference in enforcement to those laws which ostensibly favor privileged classes, while being indifferent to those which safeguard the life, liberty, and happiness of minority groups, is inimical to the security of democracy.

They sowed the wind, now they are reaping the whirlwind of their obstinacy and class prejudice in the series of disgraceful, lawless "sit-down" strikes which menace our basic industries, particularly in the automobile field.

Any way you look at it such strikes, with forcible seizure of employer's properties, refusal to obey mandates from the courts, denial of use to employers of their own properties, are application of mob rule to intimidate and terrorize employers and the courts, and to serve the cause of revolution.

MISSISSIPPI POINTS THE WAY

The brutal and horrifying lynching of McDaniels and Townes near Granada, Mississippi on Tuesday, April 13 is a solemn warning to the people of the United States that this government had better get its house in order, and that right early.

Does the United States wish to continue as a noble experiment in the democratic form of government? Is there a real desire in this country to maintain a united nation with every element of the population fired with a determination to defend its institutions and its flag? Is there genuineness in our profession of Christianity and zeal for carrying Christianity to "benighted" men in other parts of the world?

If these be our purposes and professions, the mob in Mississippi, including the sworn officers of the law, are laughing them to scorn. This mob has shown that it has no respect for law and order and despises courts of justice, if such there be in Mississippi. If ever these mobbists have heard of a Constitution of the United States which says that no citizen shall be deprived of life without due process of law, they are satisfied that they have an inherent right to repudiate it when it interferes with anything that their moronic inclinations suggest would be a delightful form of entertainment for their women and children.

If they have ever heard of Communism and its drive to destroy the american form of government, it seems that they are delighted to be faithful allies of the Communists and proud to furnish proof positive that Communism for the United States could not possibly be as bad as Mississippi democracy. If these mobbists have heard of the imminence of a world war, with the probability that the United States will be drown into it, they care little or nothing for the feelings of millions of their countrymen, who would answer the call to arms with aching hearts and a feeling of utter futility in being anxious to fight for the preservation of a democracy which persistently neglects to deal out stern justice to enemies within its borders who are worse than any foreign foe.

McDaniels and Townes will not have died in vain, if the action of the mob which burned them to death, and the plain connivance with the mob as exemplified by Mississippi minions of the law, causes the members of Congress to cease dilly-dallying and to proceed at once to put Mississippi and every other lawless commonwealth under federal jurisdiction in the matter of dealing with their lynching orgies. No quarter whatever should be given the crowd which protests against such a law, calling it a "Force Bill."

In God's name let the Congress of the United States go into action at once!

We who believe in the American form of government, as outlined in its ritualistic teachings, demand that the nation begin to practice what it preaches. Such forms of oppression as the horrible example of lynching in Mississippi can be the beginning of the end of our present form of government. Any one who can be at ease in the presence of such a flouting of law and decency is living in a fool's paradise.

First Blow Torch Lynching

In our middle teens in 1889 at Barnwell, South Carolina, we stood upon the ground and looked down on the red blood mingle with sand of eight colored men lynched at one time in one night. In 1898 the first Sunday in May in Cowetta County, Georgia, we remember that an excurison was run from Atlanta loaded down with women and children to witness the public burning of poor Sam Hoes, when a mad scramble was made among the curious for bits of his *cracklings* to take back home for a keep-sake. In 1904 and for three weeks, in a hot tilt with lynchers at Church Hill, Ga., we sat in our schoolhouse door to see men with guns on their shoulders go by to get together to lynch us; being guarded morning and evening to and from our work at that time we often said softly to ourselves, "Well, Lord, I wouldn't give 25 cents for my life today." But in the fcae of these and many other like experiences, we now exclaim: Nothing in our life to date has shocked us as the recent lynching of Roosevelt Towns and B. J. McDaniels, at Duck Hill, Mississippi on April the 14th. A "Blow Torch" lynching surely must be the last word in the parliament of the Devil's invention! A blow torch is a fire-liquid many times hotter than ordinary fire, a chemuric element with which adamant steel is presently burned thru, applied to those young men it burned thru flesh and bone instantly. That's what was gleefully used by the Duck Hill lynchers. Wonder how many Methodist stewards and Baptist deacons were present? If so, suppose they open next time with prayer by a Methodist pastor, and the benediction by a Baptist minister! Yes, Sunday school children were there, and where children are, teachers must be present also, plus loving mothers. My! My! What a company! We colored people living in the south are not unmindful that we have thousands of white sympathizers, but we haven't enough true friends who are willing to make the necessary sacrifice to put a stop to these "unmoral atrocities that have been poured upon our race since emancipation in 1865 to that eventful day at Duck Hill, Miss. Lynching of any man in any race of people before he's been given a fair trial has always been inhuman and unmoral no matter as to how far back in the annals of man. For mob of enlightened people—white people—who boast of their racial superiority, to come under the eyes of their judge in the court house-yard and take from court officials, two prisoners who protests their innocence, take them a mean distance therefrom and torture to death with "Blow Torches," then riddle with bullets in the middle of the day under the burning sun of high heaven in 1937, is to our mind going one step beyond the limit! Let's try to wonder how that mob felt after that? Did they feel like human beings, or devils—which? Wonder will any of them go to church, The date may be treacherous but the fact remains. A take Communion, or teach Sunday school any more this element in the south and in every community has year? What will their conscience say to them? Well, been allowed, aided and abetted whenever they feel like it, that "Blow Torch" has about killed their consciences. Here to make playthings of their sheriffs, judges, and courts of and there we may find as in the case of the Scottsboro boys, justice.

a Judge Horton willing to sacrifice his office rather than his conscience to uphold the dignity of justice, to his class the south needs to add many others until the integrity of justice in the south for colored people be restored and maintained.

In any state in the deep south what are colored people to hope for living under these unmoral conditions? What colored man and his family is safe, if and when a mob-spirit among sufficient numbers of whites wish to satisfy its spleen upon our sons and daughters. We can never forget the unspeakable sight one morning in Moticello, Georgia of a father, his three sons and only daughter (five of them) hanging by their necks on nearby trees on the side of the streets in that town, their bodies riddled with bullets in 1916.

Negro Press, Southern.
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Discussion.

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Cotton vs. Lynching

An astonished Senate listened last Friday while Senator Claud Pepper, of Florida, informed that august body that the price of cotton had something to do with lynching. Hitherto the world has been advised that there was a correlation between mob murder and white women's virtue, so that it came as a distinct surprise to many proponents of the Wagner-Vay Nuys proposal to stop lynching, hearing a Southern representative in Congress announce a different doctrine.

Here is what Senator Pepper actually said:

"Let me pause there, Mr. President, to remind the Senators that in 1938 we probably reached the pit of the depression, and to remind Senators that statistics show that there is an actual correlation between the number of lynchings and the price of cotton. I repeat that astonishing statement—that statistics show that there is a necessary relation, that history has shown that there is a correlation, between the price of cotton and the number of lynchings. If the Senator from New York (Mr. Wagner) and the other proponents of this bill will take my word for that statement, is the best way to stop lynching the passage of this bill, which will inflame a great section of the country which feels that righteous indignation should justly be turned toward its resistance? Instead of encroaching by the Federal power upon local governmental functions, would we not better try to raise the price of cotton, and not only prevent lynchings but help the farmers of America to give their children better food, their families more medical care, and to reduce the number of mortalities in American life?

"It is very obvious to anyone that when the price of cotton is low the Negro, who is generally the victim of the lynching passion, is more idle than he would be if he were occupied, has less money to spend, and less means with which to gratify his legitimate aspirations; and in a time of severe impoverishment the pinch of hunger and the sufferings of nakedness and of little shelter perhaps may drive him to an attitude of mind that will make him commit crimes which do arouse the passions of communities to such an extent that they will take the law in their own hands. But give the Negro a fair wage, give him a fair price for the commodity he produces, send him to school, put decent clothes on him, put him in a decent home, and give him sanitary conditions for his residence, and you will find that Negroes will not commit crimes which result directly in the aroused passion that brings about lynching."

We have always argued that the lynching evil had its roots in economics, and fundamentally had no relation to the protection of women's virtue. It therefore meets with our approval for Senator Pepper to stand up in Congress and inadventently tell the truth. Lynching is a species of terrorism practiced below the Mason and Dixon Line having for its purpose the economic exploitation of black citizens.

We, however, find fault with the conclusions reached by Senator Pepper. He seems to assume that when cotton is low in price, Negroes are idle and vice versa. This is an entirely erroneous idea and one that Senator Pepper knows is false. The South never permits the black man as a class to be idle and whether cotton is high or low in price, under a system of hireling bonds and vagrancy laws, Negroes remain in enforced labor the year round down in Dixie.

What actually happens is this: When cotton is a fair price planters grudgingly pay a pittance to their black wage slaves. They eat a little more out of the commissary and perhaps are enabled to purchase a little cheap finery in wearing apparel; but when cotton is low, the Negro must work without pay. It is at this point that rebellion develops among a few irrepressible black souls and a lynching accurs.

Take, for example, the lynching of George Hughes at Sherman, Texas, a few years ago. The world was falsely regailed with the lie that a Negro had raped a white woman. This writer personally investigated that lynching. We went on the ground and dug for the truth. George Hughes engaged in a fight with a white man who owed him and would not pay him. George Hughes bested the white man in the struggle. You know the rest of the story.

If cotton had been a good price down in that vast uncivilized domain known as East Texas, in 1930, George Hughes' white employer, John Atnip, would probably have not owed him three weeks wages. It follows then that there would have been no fight and therefore another lynching would have been averted.

It is the common knowledge of all that the social, economic and political structure of the South is built upon the idea that the black citizen must be subdued and crushed. That is the reason why statistics compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other agencies show that most of the victims of the mob died for reasons like this: being a witness against a white man; writing insulting notes; threatening a white man; sassing a white man; being a strike breaker; discussing a lynching; making boastful remarks; vagrancy, slapping a boy; jumping a labor contract, insisting on voting, gambling, throwing stones, enticing servants away.

Even the statistics compiled on lynching by Tuskegee Institute which are so conservative that southern white dailies will publish them and Southern Senators in Congress rely upon them as reliable data on that subject, show that since 1882 there have been 1,9921 persons lynched in the United States for the frivolous causes designated above, and which bear no relationship whatsoever to rape.

In Detroit, Chicago, New York, Boston, Negroes intermingle, associate with and marry white women. They have almost absolute freedom to practice that type of equality and develop social contacts denied in the South. Why under such conditions are there no wholesale ravishments of white women in the sections and cities just named? Strange, is it not, that Negroes who live in the cotton states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Tennessee, completely change in their moral complex when they go north?

We want to agree with Senator Claud Pepper in his premise but not in his conclusions. We think that cotton and lynching have close relation. The bulk of the lynchings have been in the cotton-growing states. Here are the figures covering the lynching of Negroes in the cotton area since 1882:

Alabama, 296; Arkansas, 226; Florida, 248; Georgia, 478; Kentucky, 141; Louisiana, 388; Mississippi, 522; South Carolina, 154; Tennessee, 200; Texas, 345; Virginia, 83; Oklahoma, 41; Missouri, 70.

These figures show that in thirteen cotton-growing states, since 1882, there have been 3,137 Negroes lynched out of a total of 3,384 for all America. In other words, the thirteen cotton-growing states have since 1882 lynched 3,137 Negroes while the other 35 American states were mobbing 247. Looks rather sectional, does it not?

Another thought and then we are through. If, as Senator Pepper assumes, cotton has something to do with lynching, perhaps the high price received for that staple under the AAA had something to do with the decline of lynching during the past few years. If we are going to think in straight lines, there is no other conclusion. The decline in lynching can therefore be credited up and not to advanced ethical and moral structures forming down in Dixie.

Colored Woman In The Case

By WILLIAM PICKENS

Often you are not told what is really behind or at bottom of the lynching. You are simply told that the "Negro was lynched for murder," but you are not told that the so-called murder was really justifiable homicide in an effort to protect his wife or to defend his life after daring to ask for his wages.

Well, in Florida a little while ago, they lynched two Negro boys right under the governor's nose—and I never learned the truth back of the motive for the lynching until I came south, and perhaps never would have learned it through any word written from Florida. But I met a man who knows me, and whom I have known for over thirty years, and who was right there where the lynching took place, and he told me what he would not dare write even to me,—lest in some accidental way he should be betrayed. I know you marvel at such a fear, but when you consider what happened to those two boys, you will not wonder that no other person of that barbarous community would dare tell what the boys were really lynched for. Really I cannot tell even the southern interracial commission the name of this man: for he would have no protection whatever and he occupies a position which would render him immediately vulnerable. Those who know me, will just have to take my word for it, for whatever they think my word is worth.—And this man finally spoke what he dare not write nor even publicly tell, is no ignoramus. He is one of the best educated men of the south.

You read in the papers that two youths, 18 and 19 years old, the papers said, were lynched in northern Florida because one of them cut a policeman who was joning them about a rob-

Well, in the first place, the report that they were 18 19 years old, was made by the its press just to cover up the orrible truth that the two boys were only 14 and 16 years old,—mere kids. And instead of having cut a policeman for questioning them, which must have seemed strange to you in the first place, they had simply found the policeman with a colored woman in whom the older boy was interested in the woman's room,—and the two boys gave the cop a devil of a beating and one of them struck back at the fighting officer with his knife, cutting him slightly. The policeman was off duty, as you can see, at the time.

And why did they lynch the boys? Why did the other policeman and their pals make up a small mob and take the boys out of police lockup and kill them? Just to keep the case from coming into court where these boys could tell what it was really all about. In other words, they decided to destroy the evidence, so that no court case would be necessary. And then because one of the boys' fathers, knowing the truth, was acting as if he wanted to do something about it, they were going to put him out of the way and he had to flee the state. The last heard of him, the colored people of an Alabama town were contacting him in a freight yard and giving him food in his box car, to help him on his way to oblivion in the wast.

And that gives me occasion to tell you something else which you do not now, if you do not live in the south: that colored women in the south are being accosted, insulted and annoyed by white men of the common class now more than ever before in their common history of three hundred years in this country. Really something ought to be done about it by the better-class whites, or by the white women. In Mobile these prowling animals drive around through the colored sections, as soon as it's dark enough, accosting any colored woman, she will have no redress and only gnaw her vitals with anger, sometimes not even risking telling her menfolk for fear of getting them into trouble.—When in Birmingham I mentioned this Mobile barbarity, a colored woman wife of one of the leading educators of Birmingham, said quickly: "You don't have to go to Mobile for that. This street (one of the principal Negro residence streets) is infested after dark with the hunters. There is one white lawyer, well known to most colored people who makes this section his regular prowling place."

If those who talk much about "race integrity" and the preservation of race distinctions, were really sincere, they would move heaven and earth to protect the colored woman of the south, instead of leaving her as the almost defenseless prey to that large percentage of male whites, who are cultures of that sort. Frankly, I never have thought that "race integrity" is worth the ink that it takes to spell it out, but I question the sincerity of those who pretend to think it so important because they make no measures for protection at the real danger point: the disregard of loose white males for Negro womanhood, calling the women by their first names (Mary, Lillian, Sue) and frequently insulting them with impunity except when some Negro man who is concerned, strikes at them and dies for it.

One who has opportunity to get behind the reports and learn the truth, will be shocked terribly, if he has had no previous experience with these mob lies and this traditional scoundrelism,—connived at by the officers of law and winked at or impotently ignored by the "better classes."

The only FINAL REMEDY thinkable is that colored people should have their full political rights, their full quota of votes, so as to help determine who the officers of law should be. One race will not protect another; no race can protect another in its most vital needs. Those southern senators are right who assert that the anti-lynching bill would not have all the votes it now has in Congress if the Negro of the north was as voteless as the Negro in the south. That is true, but that is no an argument for democratic gov- argument against the bill. That is an argument for democratic government. A people who cannot share in political and governmental power, cannot protect themselves,—and the unprotected will be preyed upon the lower elements of the dominant group or race or class.—Meanwhile some of the oppressed will keep on striking back and dyng for it,—until organized decency can make a better society.

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AN EXAMPLE FOR LYNCHERS

About two weeks ago, it was reported that an elderly white woman was assaulted near Blythe, in Burke County. A colored man was accused of the crime and an immediate hunt was made for him. As in cases of that kind, a large number of men generally congregate, mostly as a matter of past time, the result, in but a few cases, is always fatal to the person apprehended. If he was caught by a certain element of the ones who were seeking him, no doubt he would have been instantly lynched. Fortunately in that section, there are some law abiding men, two of them, came across the accused. They adroitly carried him to the sheriff. This sheriff also acted in accordance with his oath in his endeavor to protect his prisoner at any odds. He could have easily had him locked up in one of the ordinary jails in that locality, thus inviting mob action. He thwarted those who were inclined to have a lynching party, by bringing the prisoner to the Savannah jail where he is being safely held awaiting the day of trial. The two gentlemen who effected the capture of the accused, and the sheriff are to be commended for their action. The having of such wide-awake citizens, and especially, that calibre of sheriff, in every county, would mean that lynching in Georgia would be a thing of the past and there will be no need whatever for a national anti-lynching bill. The colored man should be given a fair trial and a speedy one. Should he be found guilty, the law's penalty must be immediately inflicted. We abhor such crimes.

Chinese Daily Journal Reprints Orgy Details At Duck Hill

White Miss. Women In Shanghai Faced Humiliation

JACKSON, Miss.— (ANP) — One of the few times Mississippi has ever been in the headlines in Chinese newspapers was April 14, after the double blow torch lynching at Duck Hill, according to word received here this week from Mrs. Juanita Byrd, white Mississippian who is professor of English at the University of Shanghai.

She said the North China Daily News, an English language newspaper, carried complete deails of the atrocity on the front page. It is one of the few papers placed in the Shanghai University library and is eagerly read by students. Their reactions were that "missionaries ought to go to Mississippi instead of coming to China."

Mrs. Byrd said she went next day to a tea attended by whites from many states and many countries. When she greeted another white woman also a native of the lynch state, with "hello, fellow Mississippian," her friend replied, "not today" and ducked her head in shame.

"After reading of the lynching, my first feeling was one of humility and indignation," Mrs. Byrd asserted, "but I realize that many Mississippians are doing their best to make lynching impossible even once in a thousand years. I believe in the necessity of a program of Christian education in race relations which will forever do away with attitudes which make lynching a possibility."

A BARBAROUS ACT

The act of a Bainbridge mob Monday night which took the body of a Negro from an undertaking establishment, dragged it through the Negro section of the city and then burned it in the baseball park was one of the most gruesome displays of mob violence in the annals of this state and places Georgia once more in the front ranks of mob crimes. The victim is said to have confessed to have killed two white women in a most brutal murder and, if the confession is genuine, he deserved to pay for his heinous crime with his life. He had been apprehended by officers of the law and was being carried to the Bainbridge jail for incarceration when he is said to have attempted to escape and was killed by the officers. The body was carried to a colored undertaking parlor where later it was taken by the mob and consigned to a pyre in a nearby ball park. The man had paid for his horrible crime when he was killed by the officers but this did not satisfy the blood thirsty mob and so they gave vent to their spleen by consuming his body in flames and taking away as souvenirs whatever they could find after the smoldering ashes had cooled. The crime of this man was a most revolting one. He ought to pay for it with his life, which price was exacted when he was killed by the arresting officers of the law, but for the mob to try to further avenge the crime by burning his lifeless body has marred the escrutcheon not only of the city where the heinous crime was committed but the entire state in a way that will long resound throughout the country. In discussing the act of the mob The Savannah Press says editorially:

Bainbridge has very little to its credit in having taken away from a Negro undertaker the body of a Negro who had committed crimes against two women and had been shot and killed by the arresting officers. The law had been avenged in the killing of the Negro by officers of the law. The body had been turned over to an undertaker for interment. While the remains were in the undertaker's room a mob of 100 men entered and took the body away. It was dragged around the public square at Bainbridge, says an Associated Press report, and later carried to a Negro baseball park and burned.

All of this was a performance which we are sure the better people of Bainbridge will regret. It is not to the credit of Bainbridge or Decatur county that such an event should take place within their borders.

The Negro deserved death for the crimes he had committed. He feared a trial and made an effort to escape. The sheriff's force killed him in order to capture him and to prevent his getting away. After he was dead the law had been thoroughly avenged.

The further mutilation of the body and its disposition on a funeral pyre is

Corpse Lynched

GEORGIA scored a lynching this week. The victim of the mob had been shot to death by the peace officers who had him in custody, and his body deposited with an undertaker. The lynchers raided the undertaker's rooms and carried away the object of their wrath. They dragged the corpse around the town, then took it to the colored baseball park where it was burned with boards ripped off the fence.

Thus goes the story of the latest sadistic revel in the name of a southern institution defended by their votes recently by every southern member of the House with one exception—Congressman Maury Maverick, of Texas.

The man was accused of murdering two women and the officers said he confessed. To those who are familiar with how these confessions are obtained that means nothing. The man may have been guilty. Does anyone doubt that he would have had a speedy trial and execution in Georgia?

But that is not enough. He must be murdered by the law officers who had him handcuffed in a speeding

automobile, en route to jail. Then his body must be mangled and burned as a public exhibition of the manner in which the savage instincts of the populace are permitted to operate in lieu of the orderly processes of the law.

Tennessee Lynching is A Warning

Say Senators Wagner And Nuys To Congress

8-26-37

Washington, Aug. 20.—Citing the lynching of Albert Gooden at Covington, Tenn., on August 17, as a warning to the Senate that action on a federal anti-lynching bill must be taken speedily in the new session, Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York and Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana, placed descriptions of the Tennessee lynching in the Congressional Record.

The action of the sponsors of the anti-lynching bill in the Senate was taken at the suggestion of the NAACP. In the last desparate efforts to secure action on a federal anti-lynching bill at this session of Congress, Walter White, NAACP secretary, repeatedly recalled to friends of the bill in the Senate that if action were postponed, the Senate would be in a measure responsible for lynchings which take place in the interim.

The NAACP also has sent a letter to Governor Gordon H. Brownnig of Tennessee, urging him to use every weapon of the state to assist local authorities in speeding up the apprehension and punishment of the lynchers of Gooden. The NAACP letter cited the fact that nothing had been done by the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida following lynchings in those states this year. In Alabama, the state attorney general asserted before the state supreme court that Wesley Johnson, lynched on February 2, was innocent of any crime and had been arrested by the sheriff just to satisfy local clamor. It was admitted that the sheriff knew that Johnson was innocent at the time of the arrest. Despite the fact that an innocent man was lynched, Alabama has done nothing.

As it was to have been expected, Mississippi has made no move whatsoever even to investigate the brutal blow-torch double lynching at Duck Hill, April 13. Despite pronouncements of Governor Fred P. Cone of Florida, the authorities of that state have done nothing to apprehend the lynchers of two boys in Tallahassee on July 20.

The NAACP asserted that the record of the local and state authorities in the six lynchings of 1937 demonstrate that a federal law is necessary if any progress is to be made in wiping out mob violence.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
August 20, 1937

PUSILLANIMOUS INCONSISTENCY

Wednesday's Dailies carried a story of a mob killing a negro who had murdered an officer in Tennessee. It required a part of two pages to carry the story. The same papers had a six inch space telling the story of a murdered man having been shipped into New York in a trunk. A Judge in Tennessee speaking of the negro killing denounced the lynching as "one of the most horrible and disgraceful crimes of Tippah county." Several small girls have been murdered and ravished in the north and east recently, and nary a word been heard from a Judge in denunciation of them. Consistency, thou art certainly a beautiful jewel in some sections of this country.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 20, 1937

Gratuitous Suggestion To Southern Lynchers

This lynching of a prisoner taken from the custody of a Tennessee sheriff prompts the suggestion that if the South really desires to have a federal lynching law that would assess fines against a county where a lynching occurred, the thing to do is to have a lynching every few weeks. A few well-staged mob murders just before Congress meets again will cinch passage of the bill now assured of consideration at the next session.

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White Press, Northern.

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MOLINE ILL. DISPATCH
MONDAY MARCH 8 1937

Lynchings in 1936.

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute in Alabama reports 9 lynchings in 1936, compared to 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. All 9 were negroes, 2 in Arkansas, 1 in Florida, 1 in Mississippi, and 5 in Georgia.

Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, 2 in jails and 4 taken from officers outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers prevented lynchings; 5 in northern states and 30 in southern states. A total of 62 negroes and 7 white persons thus were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Whether reduction in the number of lynchings has resulted from eyes of the public being fixed more upon such crimes or whether it is a mere incident of time can be only a speculation. The fact that as late as 1933 there were 28 lynchings in one year seems to indicate that it is only an incident of time and that the larger figure is likely to recur at any time.

To Do

Sirs:

About the Duck Hill double-lynching report and picture [TIME, April 26]:

We of the South might possibly handle our own personal problems with, what shall we say, a heavy hand. And you of the East? Black Legion? Of the West? California Kidnap Lynchings? Far and Feather parties? Of the North and Midwest? Milk Strikings and Strike Riots? Sho you-all don't mention those.

Didn't see a picture of the dead white man, shot in the back, cause of all the to-do. Whyn't you print that? . . .

E. D. BARGE

Atlanta, Ga.

A Madman Stalks the Nation Inciting Murder, Race Hatred in His Press

HEARST'S WALL STREET EDITION DINS LYNCH CALL AGAINST NEGRO PEOPLE

By Joseph North

If a lunatic walked the streets of New York shouting obscenities he would be apprehended at once and sent to Bellevue for a psychopathic examination.

A man is walking through the nation crying obscenities and more than that, inciting to murder, and he goes scot free.

That man is William Randolph Hearst.

His headlines din the maniac's call in the ears of millions yet he walks scot-free.

Yesterday his Procurer's Press had a good day. His New York Journal, for example, had a field day of murder, sex-violence, lynch incitement.

Two women were murdered in New Jersey. It was an atrocious crime. A suspect was taken in custody. As so often happens the police, influenced by the Southern Bourbon psychology of race hatred, picked up a Negro worker.

The Wall Street edition of the Journal had the mob screaming "LYNCH HIM." By late afternoon he had "confessed." Whenever they referred to the suspect they referred to his color. It was the NEGRO porter; it was the burly NEGRO; it was NEGRO, NEGRO, NEGRO.

SEIZE ANY NEGRO

Now in the name of common sense does this differ from the bloodthirsty ravings of a Dixie lynch gang?

We are not discussing at this moment the actual details of this particular case. We are not trying to determine here whether this particular man is guilty or not.

What we do refer to is the insinuation by the Hearst press that the Negro people is responsible. That these are "NEGRO crimes." That is the unspoken indictment of the goose-stepping Hitler-loving Hearst press.

The constant description of the suspect as a Negro can do nothing else than inflame the minds of more backward individuals, those influenced by the Southern Bourbon attitude of race hatred. Hearst is a criminal master of the art of suggestion.

This happens every time one of these crimes is committed. The police are paid to round up suspects. More than often they grab a Negro any Negro near the scene will do. They extort confessions and, as anybody who had any experience in a labor struggle, they know what the third degree means. They know how valid these confessions, extorted under torture, are.

Then the press does its maniac job of inciting to lynch violence. But this it accomplishes in a subtle fashion. Criminologists know this as the art of suggestion.

To date the Negro people are the greatest sufferers. When individuals of other national groups are arrested they are not referred to as the Irish porter, let us say, or the Jewish or the Italian porter. But invariably, if a man is black, he is a Negro porter in the headlines.

The greatest offenders are the Hearst papers. But the other press is by no means innocent of this crime. For it is a crime—a great, brutal social crime—this subtle incitation to lynch law, to the spread of race hatred.

The World-Telegram yesterday said: "A Negro handyman, 27, had confessed. . . ." The Post also termed him "Negro." In fact every commercial paper in town, reactionary or liberal, did the same.

The tabloid News, on page three, had a veritable Hearstian holiday. Three stories of sex crimes and murders throughout the land were attributed to Negroes. All this on one page—Page three. The cumulative effect of this must constitute a terrible indictment in the minds of the backward elements of the population.

All progressive minded people must take a firm stand on this issue. They must ask the press: Do you want race rioting? They must ask if the newspapers subscribe to Hitler's lunatic theories of superior and inferior races—the white versus the colored, and the colored capable of all imaginable crimes.

The headlines give this impression. They do it daily. They don't say so editorially but their news stories have that effect.

And consider the terrible toll this takes among America's growing generations. They are daily fed their dose of race hatred. In addition they get their ration of crime and sex violence.

Hearst will probably reply that such headlines tend to ward off these crimes. Nonsense, criminal nonsense! On the contrary, they tend to inflame the mentally unbalanced. The story of Lindbergh kidnapping, for example, provoked scores of kidnappings. The story of a sex crime stimulates the sexually insane to go and do likewise.

This pandering to the horrors of life under capitalism goes by the name of journalism. This is the vaunted journalism of the Hearst press. And not only they, but the liberal papers commit the same crime.

Only the labor press differs. Only the Daily Worker crusades against the handling of "news" in such a fashion.

Those who poison wells are no less criminal than those who poison minds.

Mr. Hearst, you are guilty of the great crime of poisoning the minds of the young of this country.

Mr. Hearst, you belong in a lunatic asylum!

RACES

Lynch & Anti-Lynch

In Washington, before a gallery crowded with Negroes, the U. S. House of Representatives was beginning to debate a drastic anti-lynching bill introduced by Congressman Gavagan from New York's Black Harlem. In Jackson, Miss., before delegates to a farm conference, Governor Hugh Lawson White was boasting that Mississippi had not had a lynching in 15 months. In Winona, Miss., in a jampacked courtroom in Montgomery County's white brick courthouse, Roosevelt Townes and Bootjack McDaniels, 26-year-old Negroes, were pleading not guilty to a charge of

murdering a crossroads country grocer during a robbery last December at nearby Duck Hill. One day last week these simultaneous events were the prolog of a bloody melodrama, peculiarly Southern.

As the debate at Washington droned on, furnishing a strange far-off accompaniment, Negroes Townes and McDaniels were led handcuffed from the courtroom. If their minds registered anything as the sheriff and two deputies escorted them down the back stairs to return them to jail, it was relief. The Court had assigned counsel to defend them, set a date for trial by jury. Everything was according to law. But when they stepped out of a side door of the courthouse, they found themselves face to face with what so often handles cases like theirs in the South. An angry mob surged forward, took them from the custody of their guardians without a struggle, threw them into a school bus.

Followed by 40 automobiles, the bus sped down the highway toward Duck Hill. Two miles from the scene of last December's murder, 500 country folk, including women and children, waited expectantly in a patch of pinewood. When the motorcade from Winona arrived, the mob closed in to watch as the terrified Negroes were dragged from the bus. People in the back rows could hear heavy chains clink as the two blackamoors were made fast to trees.

Bootjack McDaniels, a lanky Negro with powerful shoulders, was asked to confess first. He gibbered that he was innocent. A mobster stepped forward with a plumber's blow torch, lighted it. Another ripped McDaniels' shirt off. Again he refused to confess. Then the blue-white flame of the torch stabbed into his black chest. He screamed with agony. The torch was withdrawn. He reiterated his innocence. Again the torch was turned on him and the smell of burned flesh floated through the woods. Again he screamed, and when it was withdrawn this time he was ready to confess. He was with Townes, he sobbed, when Townes poked a shotgun through the grocery window, fired into the grocer's back. When his confession was delivered in sufficient detail, the lynchers fell back and a volley of bullets crashed into Bootjack McDaniels, 1937's lynching victim No. 2.

Despite what he had just witnessed, Negro Townes was not yet ready to repeat the confession which county officers had said he signed with his X after he was arrested last fortnight. But the blow torch soon burned the story out of him. As he hung limp in his chains, some of the mob went off to get another Negro he named as an accomplice. Back they came with one Shorty Dorroh. After he satisfied them that he had had nothing to do with the murder, they horsewhipped him, ordered him to get out of the State. Then they piled brush high about sobbing Negro Townes, drenched it with gasoline, touched him off—1937's lynching victim No. 3.

Back in Winona, the judge who had heard the Negroes' pleas of not guilty promised a Grand Jury investigation, but the sheriff and his men said they had not recognized any of the mobsters who seized their prisoners. Said Deputy Sheriff Hugh Curtis: "It was all done very quickly, quietly and orderly."

In Washington the House debate rose to a furious crescendo after Michigan's Michener read a press report of what had just happened at Duck Hill. Negroes in the gallery, who had cheered and applauded intermittently throughout the day when one of their champions made a good point on the floor, were shocked into silence. Two days later, with all but 17 Southern Representatives out of 123 voting against it, the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which would make mobsters and law officers who yield up their prisoners liable to stiff Federal prosecution, was passed by the House.

Few proposals have caused more excited debate in the halls of Congress than Federal anti-lynching bills. At least one is offered every session. This session there were 59. The first anti-lynching bill, introduced in the house in 1902, was inspired not by lynchings of Southern Negroes but by the large number of lynchings in the 1880s and 1890s in which white aliens were the victims. These crimes caused the Government no end of embarrassment, resulted in payments of $475,500 in indemnities to foreign governments. When the South continued to lynch Negroes after alien lynchings ceased, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was organized to do something about it and anti-lynching legislation became a permanent sectional issue. The first bill to get through the House did so in 1922. Southern Senators killed it with a 21-day filibuster. In 1935 the Southern bloc in the Senate filibustered six days to smother a similar bill.

Few Washington observers would concede last week's bill an outside chance in the Senate. Many doubted that it would ever get out of committee. The fact that the Administration needs the support of Southern Senators to get the President's Court Plan passed, caused considerable speculation when the anti-lynching bill got through the House. A filibuster, which seemed almost certain, could jam up the legislative mill and thus delay or prevent passage of the Court legislation. Administration leaders feared that Southern Senators who oppose the Court Plan might welcome a filibuster on this other issue of such powerful interest to the folks back home as a disguise for their opposition to the White House.

BOOTJACK MCDANIELS & ROOSEVELT TOWNES

17 Southern Representatives voted for the anti-lynching bill.

AT Duck Hill, Mississippi, there occurred last week one of the worst lynchings of recent years—if, indeed, one lynching can be said to be worse than another. Two Negroes, accused of robbing and murdering a country storekeeper three and a half months ago, were tied to trees, and blow-torches applied to their flesh. Not unnaturally, they thereupon "confessed" and their bodies were riddled with bullets. Two days later, the national House of Representatives passed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. The affair at Duck Hill may have had something to do with the vote, but this is far from certain; the Representatives divided on geographical lines, the entire Southern delegation being opposed, except Representative Maury Maverick. Washington correspondents expect the bill to be defeated in the Senate, in which the South is heavily overrepresented in terms of the national population. The Gavagan bill would make it a federal offense for peace officers to yield their prisoners to a mob. The family of a victim could bring suit for damages against the county. Local prosecuting officials who failed to act after a lynching could be tried for a federal offense. If these local officers failed to act within thirty days, federal prosecution would be possible against the actual members of the mob. There is, of course, no automatic guarantee that lynching would come to an end if the bill becomes law. Nevertheless, there is substantial evidence that a federal statute would have a beneficial effect; this is shown by experience under similar statewide laws and by the reduced number of lynchings during the time when a federal measure has, in the past, received even serious consideration.

NEWARK, N. J. STAR EAGLE

MAY 3 1937

LYNCHING

THE crime of lynching being what it is, it seems much more useful to approach it by means of state legislation than by avenues that lead through Washington. The sentiment of the nation as a whole is against lynching and is desirous of stamping out at the earliest possible moment such orgies of cruelty as disgraced the state of Mississippi x x x. But the fact is that national sentiment and national legislation have an uphill job in those communities which still labor under mediaeval ideas of racial justice. The task is to awaken the enlightened citizens of the localities to the enormity of the crime which they are tolerating. Once they are awakened, local action of a most effective character will follow and the statistics of lynching which it is now the doleful duty of research workers at Tuskegee to compile will become matters of history.—Baltimore Sun.

Lynchings-1937
Discussion.

White Press, Northern.

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FAIR HAVEN N Y REG
THURSDAY MARCH 11 1937

Lynchings Decrease

For a number of years Tuskegee Institute has been tabulating the returns of lynching and it is pleasing to observe that President F. D. Patterson reports that there has been a decline in mob action every decade since 1887.

Dr. Patterson gives three reasons for the decline and they are, we believe, sound observations. The first is the disappearance of frontier characteristics in the South; the breaking down of isolation in the South through the development of rural free delivery, increased communication facilities; paved roads and radio; the third, "increased agitation within the South against lynching."

While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynching was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the Negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

CUBA N Y PATRIOT (wkly)
THURSDAY MARCH 4 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

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WAVERLY OHIO WATCHMAN
THURSDAY MARCH 4 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

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Montevideo, Minn., American
FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1937

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Ossian, Ia., Bee
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Kyegate, Mont., Clarion
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1937

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MIDLAND PA NEWS
FRIDAY MARCH 5 1937

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Lynching, and The Power of Publicity.

THE power of publicity to cure public evil has perhaps never been better illustrated than by the plan which the late Booker T. Washington launched some years ago at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama.

This great Negro leader was concerned by the number of Negroes who were being deprived of trial and being lynched by mobs.

His plan was the simple, effective one of shining the light of fact on the situation. Each year-end he compiled a list of lynchings, and mailed them out to the newspapers of the country. He attached no comment. But there stood the facts, showing how many persons were lynched, how many were white, how many were Negroes, what state the lynchings occurred in, and how many lynchings were prevented by peace officers.

Thus his simple recital of facts became a dishonor roll of states. Newspapers supplied the comment, if any.

But the facts alone were a terrible indictment of some states; a type of national publicity which hurts; and the press of the lynch states began to wake up under the lash of accusing public facts, and peace officers became active in preventing lynchings.

Booker Washington's plan worked.

Lynchings have steadily decreased under this type of report of facts.

* * *

THE latest report, issued by F. D. Patterson, the president of the Tuskegee Institute, is the current evidence of the power of publicity when the public is given the facts.

There were only 9 persons lynched in the United States in 1936, and 35 persons were saved from mobs by the action of peace officers. This is 11 less than for 1935 and 28 less than for 1933.

All of the 9 persons lynched were Negroes, and all were taken away from peace officers—2 taken from jails.

The offenses charged, as quoted from Doctor Patterson's letter, were: "rape, 3; attempted rape, 3; murder, 1; activity in share cropper strike, 1; charge not reported, 1."

And here is the final paragraph of the letter—the roll of lynchings by states: "Arkansas, 2 Florida, 1; Georgia, 5; Mississippi, 1."

No comment there. No condemnation, except the lash of facts.

And that lash has been increasingly effective

WASHINGTON, D. C. STAR

MAR 21 1937

NEW TREND SEEN IN BAN ON LYNCHING

Head of Tuskegee Institute Credits Drop to Growth of Merciful Attitude.

By the Associated Press.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., February 20.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, today credited a 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-96 period, and 151 in the 1927-36 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings totaled 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline. The first, he said, is the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear; second, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased communciation facilities, and third, "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings."

NEW HAVEN, CT. REGISTER

MAR 7 1937

ANOTHER TASK

The president of Tuskegee Institute attributes a decline of 90 per cent in the number of lynchings in the United States over the last half century to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people." It is conceded that the work of alert sheriffs and other officers of the law has been a factor in the gradual approach to a more civilized order.

Through the operation of these combined forces, then, it may be hoped that the activities of certain primitive religious sects in conducting "prayer floggings" of people who are disapproved in communities of eastern North Carolina will be halted in less than another half century.—From the Kansas City Star.

FITCHBURG, MASS. SENTINEL

MAR 17 1937

Five persons were lynched in Georgia in 1936, reveal records compiled by the department of research of Tuskegee Normal.

Rockville, Conn. Leader

MAR 30 1937

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PERRY, KAS., MIRROR

MAR. 11, 1937 M23

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Georgia Answers Congress With Another Lynching

The lynch mob down in Georgia yesterday was disappointed.

When it got to the jail, their victim, the 22-year-old Willie Reid, had already been lynched by the police who shot him down "while attempting to escape."

So the mob lynched Willie Reid again, burning his bullet-riddled body in a local ball-park.

This is the fourth gruesome murder of a Negro seized on the filthy false frame-up of "alleged rape" within the past month.

The Southern lynchers are, no doubt of it at all, carrying out a deliberate act of defiance against the anti-lynch forces which passed the Gavagan anti-lynch bill in the House, and against the proposed Wagner-Van Nuys bill in the Senate.

The Mississippi torch-burner lynching a few weeks ago galvanized the House into acting on the Gavagan measure. The latest horrible act must have the same effect on the Senate.

This lynch savagery is the work of a small clique of diehard, brutish interests who profit

from the oppression of the Negro people. Determined and united action of the American people, Negro and white alike, could stamp this cowardly beastliness out.

Punish the lynchers! Make lynching a Federal crime! Congress must act!

White Press, Northern.

5577

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

Churches Stop a Lynching

Christian Century

THAT the church, aroused to its social responsibilities in local communities, can put an end to lynching is indicated by recent incidents in the town of Dalton in northern Georgia. In August the lynching of a Negro there stirred such determined protest on the part of local ministers and an organization of Georgia church women that the threatened lynching last week of two men under arrest for assault upon a Dalton grocer was promptly prevented by the police of town and county, whose laxity in the previous case had been the object of the ministers' outspoken condemnation. Last week also President Patterson of Tuskegee in commenting upon the decline in the number of lynchings in 1936 (there were nine as compared with twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934), is reported to have given large credit to the "new position" of the white ministers of the South. One remembers Dalton as the town where five years ago Miss Juliette Derricotte, noted Y.W.C.A. leader and at that time dean of women at Fisk University, suffered a fatal automobile accident—fatal probably because the Dalton hospital had no facilities to offer colored people. Miss Derricotte had to be moved thirty miles to Chattanooga, where she died. Perhaps her death had some part in arousing Dalton's white churches to their responsibility for interracial justice. If so, it was not the utterly tragic waste it seemed at first. That incident of five years ago, however, should serve as a solemn reminder that lynching is part and parcel of the segregation system. Dalton did not lynch Miss Derricotte; it just let her die. Lynching is only the occasional manifestation of a continuing persecution, no less cruel and costly because it is covert and often unintended. To put an end to lynching will involve destroying the whole system of racial segregation and discrimination, north and south, of which lynching is only a symptom and a symbol.

Lynch Incitement Must Stop

Daily Worker

1-11-37

• On Saturday the Daily Worker warned that the capitalist press was converting the arrest of Major Green, Negro porter, charged with the murder of Mrs. Mary Harriet Case, into an anti-Negro case.

That very day brought additional confirmation of this fact. A group of Brooklyn Negroes charged that the lynch-hysteria whipped up against Green has already resulted in the firing of between 300 and 400 Negroes from jobs throughout the city.

One of the members of the Negro group, George E. Wibecan, president of the Crispus Attucks Community Council, described the situation when he declared:

"When an Italian or a Hebrew is arrested, there is no cry against his race. But when a Negro is arrested, there is a prejudice raised against the entire race. Whenever a woman is involved, there is a cry that a Negro must be guilty. So it was in the Titterton case when a white man was found to be responsible."

New York City has already been disgraced by the shameful cry of "Lynch him!" that was hurled at Green the other day.

The anti-Negro sentiment whipped up in this case is not an isolated phenomenon. Congressman Dickstein has just announced that his investigators have discovered that there are 200,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan in New York State and numerous members of the Black Legion.

It is such sinister forces that are undoubtedly now seeking to exploit the arrest of Green. Let there be an end to this trial by press and vicious race incitement which is resulting in the victimization of other Negroes.

The efforts of the Brooklyn Negro group to secure a fair trial for Green and to prevent the case from being used against the entire Negro people should receive the fullest support.

[redacted]
NEW YORK, N. Y. POST
JAN 9 1937

CUT IN LYNCHING LAID TO RENEWED FIGHT BY PASTORS

Tuskegee Head Says Drive Reduced Number of U. S. Victims to Nine

By BENSON Y. LANDIS

Mr. Landis is associate secretary of the department of research and education of the Federal Council of Churches and executive secretary of the American Country Life Association. He has won recognition as a student of sociology.

The "new position" of the ministers of the South, vigorously denouncing lynching and working for its early eradication was credited this week with being an important factor in a decline in the number of persons lynched in 1936, as compared with the previous three years, by President Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, which makes an annual report on this situation.

Nine persons were lynched in 1936. All were Negroes. All lynchings took place in the South in 1936, although most States of the Union have had lynchings in their history. In 1935 there were twenty lynchings; in 1934, fifteen; in 1933, twenty-eight. Five of the nine high crimes of 1936 took place in Georgia. Arkansas had two, Florida one, Mississippi one.

Dr. Patterson stated that not so many years ago ministers in small Southern towns kept quiet on the subject of lynching and considered it "impolitic" to discuss the matter from their pulpits. Today, however, white ministers are speaking out and getting results.

A Striking Example

A striking recent illustration was an event in Dalton, Ga., where A. L. McCamy, a Negro, was lynched last summer, but where officers of the law promptly prevented the lynching of two Negroes this week. The ministers and white churchwomen of Dalton and vicinity made such an appeal to public opinion that the public officials were able to conduct themselves differently than during the summer.

Peace officers prevented thirty-five attempted lynchings in 1936, and thirty of these instances were in the South, according to the Tuskegee records. Six of the nine person lynched, however, were in the hands of public authorities, who allowed prisoners to be taken away from them, in some cases without a show of resistance.

Some authorities say that lynching is now generally confined to the smaller, more isolated communities, and urge that interracial co-operation be hastened in those places. Probably economic recovery and a lessening of stress and strain in many places during 1936 account to a great degree for the recent favorable trend.

The year 1937 will be marked by industrial conflict, the Rev. Dr. John Howard Melish of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Holy Trinity in Brooklyn predicted this week in a New Year's message. He urged that the churches stand by and be ready to act as mediators, leaving arbitration for those with technical skill.

Churchmen as Mediators

The difficulties that churchmen encounter as industrial mediators were revealed this week when Kelly Loe, a labor leader of Portland, Ore., broke with the committee on social and industrial betterment of the Portland Council of Churches.

Said Loe: "The ministry is still in the dark ages where property rights are concerned." He contended that Rev. William G. Everson, minister of the First Baptist Church of Portland, also chairman of the Oregon State Board of Conciliation, had fallen into an "employer's trap" when he initiated the return to work of strikers in a textile mill, pending an adjustment of differences.

The labor leader went on to say: "It seems the ministers are very poorly informed on industrial matters. I have no idea that any conferences or relations will be able to change the attitude of the clergymen who are the spokesmen of the church."

Loe took this step after having been one of three fraternal delegates from the Portland Central Labor Council to the Portland Council of Churches which, in turn, had sent fraternal delegates to the labor body. This dispute between a labor leader and churchmen

dashed hopes once entertained that the religious forces might mediate in the maritime strike in Portland.

Asks Tax on Churches

Churches, commonly exempt from taxation, and usually seeking to avoid public levies, should pay taxes for the services rendered to their property, the Rev. David Rhys Williams, minister of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, N. Y., declared this week. Dr. Williams recommends that the taxation be begun in small doses, say 5 per cent of the total amount of the first year, increasing five per cent annually over a period of twenty years.

The minister recommended that his own church set the example. In support of his position he said: "It is neither democratic nor chivalrous to tax any portion of the community to support what is essentially a volunteer enterprise in which a large part of the community may not believe. There is already too much tax exempt property today. This condition seems to be increasing. Is it not time that a protest was made? The best protest is an example."

Other Events of Week

Thousands of New Hampshire residents thronged churches in all sections last Sunday marking the State's first Everybody-Go-to-Church Sunday. At the same time Governor H. Styles Bridges appointed the third Sunday in January for people to contemplate the importance of religion. Pastors reported large attendances in churches of many denominations.

Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, foreign secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, was awarded the Pi Lambda Pi Tolerance Medal issued by this Jewish fraternity for having "most convincingly achieved world-wide recognition as a true exponent of tolerance."

In Tulsa, Okla., Jews joined with Christians in donating funds to purchase 300 New Testaments for inmates of the Paul's Valley (Okla.) Reformatory.

(Boswright, 1937, N. C. J. C. News Service)

LINCOLN NEBR. STATE JOURNAL
FEB. 1, 1937 F2

POSTSCRIPTS.

The year just ended had the lowest number of lynchings in half a century, with one exception, according to figures released from Tuskegee Institute, says the Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch. Only nine persons were put to death in this fiendish fashion during 1936, one more than for 1932, when the best record of all was made. The United States is the only supposedly civilized country in the world where such things occur, and yet the toll of lynchings continues year year by year, with the number lynched varying between 8 and 33 since 1923. Prior to that year, the totals were much higher, and there has been a clearly discernible

"Lynched by a Mob Of 100 Men"

"Wesley Johnson, 22-year old Negro youth, was today dragged from the county jail and lynched by a mob of approximately 100 men."

Such was the wretched news yesterday from Abbeyville, Ala.

What a world of horrors is condensed in that one dispatch! What a picture of the tortures of this youth, merely because he was a Negro! What a bitter recollection of the crucifixion that goes on and on in allegedly democratic America against the Negro people!

The degenerate sadism of the mob was shown by their gross and cowardly act in riddling the body of the victim with bullets, as he hung dying from strangulation.

While this and other like crimes go on against the Negroes of the South, the Congress solemnly blocks Federal anti-lynching legislation. Senator William Borah, the sham-liberal Senator from Idaho, talks at great length about the "sacredness of the Constitution." He and others like him hide behind those words, to cover up their disregard for the sacredness of human life. Behind it, they oppose the sole way by which the lynching crime can be halted—through Federal legislation.

The blood of this Negro youth, so cruelly murdered, cries out to the progressive forces in America to move with speed and determination for the passage of this legislation.

Lynchings totaled 1030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907 and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline, the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, the radio, and paved roads, and, third, increasing agitation within the South against lynchings.

CITRONELLE, ALA., CALL
FEB, 25, 1937 M3

FOR THE WHITE MAN

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, announced recently that a bust of Dr. George W. Carver would be done by the distinguished sculptor, Steffen Thomas.

The bust is to be presented to the school by friends of Dr. Carver. The cost is not great, and only small contributions are asked.

Dr. Carver is one of the best friends the white man or black man has in Alabama. He has served both races, faithfully and intelligently. They both now are contributing so that this honor may be paid him while he still lives and works.

But is not this an opportunity primarily for the white man of Alabama to express his appreciation of the work done by this son of slaves? It would be particularly appropriate if the white people of Alabama should bear the cost of this bust of George Washington Carver. — Birmingham Age-Herald.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
March 5, 1937

Making Mockery Of Justice

THE Civil Liberties League, the League for the Advancement of the Colored Race, and similar organizations have for six years cooperated to defeat justice and prevent disposition of the Scottsboro case, with the end still invisible.

The Scottsboro case appeared simple enough in the beginning. A group of negroes were charged with criminally assaulting two white women, some of the negroes confessed, and the disposition of the cases appeared to be merely a matter of routine. But it was not so, as is made clear by the fact that the case has dragged along for six years and now is going into another trial.

This situation should serve to give the people of the South a fairly accurate idea of what could happen in the South were the Congress to adopt and the Supreme Court sustain any of the vicious anti-lynch bills now pending.

Should one of these occasional lynchings occur under the anti-lynch laws as proposed, the federal government would step into the situation and every citizen of the county in which the lynching occurred would become a virtual defendant, with the possibility of being fined as much as ten thousand dollars, the money to go to the family of the victim. States' rights in the trial of such cases would vanish and one may easily imagine the sort of prosecutions that would take place with federal agents from out of the state pushing prosecutions, aided and abetted by various national organizations that are embittered toward the South.

Such gross invasions of states' rights are held unconstitutional as matters stand, but advocates of these anti-lynch bills look to an enlarged Supreme Court to declare them legal. They contain a grave menace toward the South, which is doing much more to prevent the lynching of persons than the North is doing to prevent the lynching of the law, and their enactment and approval should be resisted in every way possible.

ST. LOUIS MO. POST-DISPATCH
FEB. 22, 1937 F24

LYNCHINGS IN NATION DROP TO 151 IN LAST 10 YEARS

Tuskegee Institute Head Lays Decrease to Growth of Humanitarian Attitude.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Feb. 22. — Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, credits a 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people." A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 151 in the 1927-1936 period.

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While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynchings was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the Negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America both in the West and in the South.

FRIDAY MARCH 5 1937

Lynchings-1937
Discussion

White Press, Southern.

5532

Key West Fla Citizen
March 6, 1937

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Anniston Ala Star
March 8, 1937

Proper Channels

A survey published a short time ago revealed that lynchings had declined remarkably during the last year.

Several months ago, night-riding members of the Midwestern Black Legion were brought to book by the law.

In Pennsylvania, a state trooper has been found guilty of the "third degree" murder of a hotel man.

These facts are all totally unrelated and yet taken together perhaps they are indicative of one thing.

Perhaps they reveal that people in general are coming more and more to realize that infractions against law and order must be handled only through the proper channels of justice; that citizens cannot take the law into their own hands no matter how well such a course seems justified.

Jackson Tenn Sun
March 4, 1937

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Memphis, Tenn. Commercial Appeal
March 8, 1937

Mobster Rule

Over 40 anti-lynching bills have been introduced in the present Congress. Despite cynical criticism, we think the flood of anti-lynching bills is most significant. Mob rule has virtually superseded constituted authority in many places. In Chicago and Cook County, Illinois, for many years the number of executions by mobsters has vastly exceeded the number of electrocutions in the Cook County jail. The portly sheriffs of Cook County have been reduced to the status of civilian officials serving garnishments and eviction notices, while the job of executing criminals has been left to the official executioners of the Capone, Tuohy Moran and other mobs.

And it must be admitted that these extra legal executions are done with admirable dispatch. Many evildoers are removed from society. Many puzzling problems of business competition and control of labor unions are settled by the unofficial tribunals and executions of racketeer super government, which enforces its racket codes despite the Supreme Court's decision in the sick chicken case. In New York the super government of rackets executes many more offenders than march through the little green door at Sing Sing. As in Chicago, many lines of business are regulated by this system of lynch law. Restaurants, laundries, the cleaning and dyeing trades, the marketing of fish, not to speak of the distribution of beer and liquor to mobster saloons and the control of race track news and betting is regulated by racket law in many barbaric urban belts. Vulgarians often speak of these unofficial protagonists of social order as "gangsters," but from the historical standpoint the "gangster" of today is not intrinsically different from the vigilantes or members of the anti-horse thief associations which reduced the wild and woolly frontier to order.

Doubtless some will raise the old cry of "states' rights" against efforts by Congress to give the federal government control of local police matters, but if the authority of the constitutional local governments is to be restored, the strong arm of Washington must intervene. There is no doubt that mob rule can be destroyed. After the Mafia dominated Sicily for centuries, Mussolini broke it up. He even cleaned up the Camorra of Naples, which was every bit as strong as the Racketeria of Chicago.

However, restoration of old-fashioned courthouse law in the backward barbarian parts of America will be no easy task. In the first place, the highly organized urban mob operating continuously, well financed and well armed, presents a more difficult problem than the old-fashioned frontier mob that used to hang a horse thief or the spontaneous mob that once in a great while rises in wrath over some atrocious crime perpetrated against a woman or other helpless victim. That kind of mob was sporadic and is becoming so rare as to be a fading anachronism. But lynch law of the modern scientific variety is not declining. If anything it is becoming more powerful and pervasive. If there is an occasional lull in the number of urban lynchings it does not indicate that the properly constituted legal authorities have regained power, but on the contrary that resistance to the edicts and decrees of mobster government has about disappeared.

Any attempt to restore law and order in such places as Chicago, New York, Minneapolis or St. Paul will encounter much public sentiment that not only is inclined to condone, but to defend the summary execution of offenders against mob and racket rule. In Chicago most of these killings elicited a public response to the effect that the victim got what was coming to him. That sentiment was well summed up in the observation of Hon. Ted Newberry, himself a shining light in the realm of Racketeria before his light was put out with a submachine gun. Said Ted, in commenting on the demise of a once famous fellow mobster: "He must have done something; they don't kill you for nothing."

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
March 11, 1937

Proper Channels

A survey published a short time ago revealed that lynchings had declined remarkably during the past year.

Several months ago, night-riding members of the midwestern Black Legion were brought to book by the law.

In Pennsylvania, a state trooper has been found guilty of the "third degree" murder of a hotel man.

These facts are all totally unrelated and yet, taken together, perhaps they are indicative of one thing.

Perhaps they reveal that people, in general, are coming more and more to realize that infractions against law and order must be handled only through the proper channels of justice; that citizens cannot take the law into their own hands no matter how well such a course seems justified.

Concord, N. C. Herald Observer
March 3, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

For a number of years Tuskegee Institute has been tabulating the returns of lynching and it is pleasing to observe that President F. D. Patterson reports that there has been a decline in mob action every decade since 1887.

Dr. Patterson gives three reasons for the decline and they are, we believe, sound observations. The first is the disappearance of frontier characteristics in the South; the breaking down of isolation in the South through the development of rural free delivery, increased communication facilities; paved roads and radio; the third, "increased agitation within the South against lynching."

While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynching was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the Negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Lynchburg, Va., Advance
February 27, 1937

AN ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

Certain Congressional leaders are again agitating for a federal anti-lynching law. The latest measure designed to place a heavy penalty upon counties in which mob violence occurs has been introduced by Senators Wagner of New York and Van Nuys of Indiana. Under the provisions of the proposed legislation, communities in which lynchings take place would be fined from $2,000 to $20,000 and officers who, by neglect of duty, allow prisoners to be taken from their hands, would also be fined and imprisoned. Commenting on the bill the Baltimore Evening Sun says:

"If this bill offered any reasonable prospect of the abolition of lynching, a great many persons would waive their objections to its plain invasion of States' rights and support it.

"But why should anyone think that it will abolish lynching? A guilty sheriff must be tried and convicted before he can be punished. He may be tried in a federal court under this bill, but he is, nevertheless, entitled to a trial by jury; and if the jury is drawn from a community that tolerates lynching, can it be expected to convict?

"The cure for lynching does not lie in the enactment of statutes—federal, state or municipal—but in civilizing the forlorn and semi-barbarous communities in which lynchings occur. This may be a long and difficult process, to be sure, but it is the only process that will effect a cure."

It seems to us that considerable progress in civilizing "forlorn and semi-barbarous communities" has been made in the last several decades. Last year less than ten lynchings occurred as compared with hundreds in some years prior to the turn of the century. As a matter of fact, lynching has for some years become less and less of a problem. The measure introduced in the Senate is, of course, aimed at the South, it being assumed that Southern States have not adopted any plans whereby lawless murder can be dealt with, if not ended. However, at least several of the Southern States have devised legislation in the interest of lynching prevention. Virginia is among them. The Old Dominion does not tolerate the crime and over a long period of time lynching has become virtually extinct in this State. The passage of a punitive federal act will in our opinion serve no useful purpose in reducing mob violence.

Pelham, Ga., Journal
March 4, 1937

Lynchings Decrease

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Birmingham, Ala. News
March 11, 1937

Seeking Responsibility For A Crime Against Order

This paper is pleased that the authorities have not ceased to try to fix the responsibility in Henry County for the recent lynching of a Negro prisoner there. It greets with satisfaction the institution of impeachment proceedings against the sheriff whose duty it was to protect his prisoner from unlawful seizure.

Following the lynching, Gov. Graves is quoted as saying that "mob rule shall not prevail in Alabama." Evidently he intends to push this Henry County investigation, since it was at his direction, so the public is told, that the impeachment proceedings have been started. It is this paper's hope that the governor means what he said, although it cannot help recalling that he made a similar statement after Joseph S. Gelders was abducted, flogged and robbed last September.

It is only fair to Sheriff Corbitt of Henry County to keep in mind that this is his first hearing on any charges growing out of the lynching. The Henry County Grand Jury that investigated the death of the prisoner reported that it had not considered the sheriff's part in the matter since Gov. Graves had already ordered his impeachment.

The sheriff's side of the case ought now to be made public. He is quoted as saying he could identify several members of the mob that broke into his rather flimsy jail and took away the prisoner he was sworn to protect. The public would like to know now why the sheriff's ability to recognize the gangsters was not utilized by the Grand Jury which was also sworn to protect law and order.

There are a number of questions about this case that ought to be cleared up, both for the sake of justice to the sheriff who alone of all those involved now stands accused, and for the sake of that ideal of justice and respect for law which must remain supreme in this land if the nation is not to fail.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
March 12, 1937

Is Lynching Now Lawful?

When a governor of South Carolina publicly approved of lynching for a single crime and in certain circumstances, saying, "To hell with the constitution," he was condemned by the press of the country. We joined in the condemnation. The day has dawned when the lynching of the law can be and is approved tacitly or in spoken words by the highest authorities. If fifty men, without violation of law, may stop work in a shop, close the doors and windows, forbid the owner of the shop to enter it, may they not kill him if he break the lock and cross the threshold? If it be lawful to take and hold another man's property, why is it not lawful to lynch him if he do not submit to it?

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
March 17, 1937

THIS MORNING

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES II.

* * * *

"No man ere felt the halter draw
With good opinion of the law."

Even though some of them, in our opinion, are prolonging unwisely a legal fight against social controls sure to be assumed if the machine age is to justify itself, we hold ourself second to none in appreciation of what lawyers mean—and have meant and will continue meaning—to this country. Lawyers as a group are our ablest men, and when the reach of their activity is considered, their ethics are extraordinarily high. When Newton D. Baker told a university board of trustees the other day that the best choice they could make for the vacant presidency of their university was some young lawyer of recognized talent and local background, he was not being fatuous about his own profession. He was simply giving expression to the fact that in nearly every community the best education, the soundest judgment, the finest balance, the longest background and the most generous compound of philosophy with executive ability belong to certain leading lawyers.

* * * *

In this writer's own life the friends he has respected most and loved best have been lawyers, and through the eyes of friendship he has been able to know the integrity, the dignity of soul and depth of heart, which can distinguish members of the great profession.

* * * *

To leave everything to our lawyers, though, is to do them a disservice. There is no group of men, no matter how able and fine, which is sufficiently free of some special point of view or color of interest or influence of association to be entrusted with the whole destiny of this nation. Lawyers are not to be trusted, and neither are government officials, or college professors, or labor leaders, or businessmen, or even (mirabile dictu!) newspapermen. These are days when all of us are under necessity of thinking for ourselves as we have never thought before. Only from such thinking, from the interplay of many intellectual forces can we hope to arrive anywhere.

* * * *

Hamilton Basso, who disagrees with us on the number of people in the south who believe in the need of occasional extra-legal action (polite for lynchings and floggings), writes that this "is one of the most amiable controversies I have ever engaged in." His own statistical estimate is that "there is a rather large pro-lynching fringe on one side and a smaller anti-lynching fringe on the other. In between these margins lie most of the southern people—more or less neutral in attitude, apt to be influenced one way or the other. These are the people we have to get on the liberal side because the fixed attitudes of the margins are not likely to change. And the way to get them on the anti-lynching side, it seems to me, is to begin with the presumption that they are as honorable and decent as the people of any other section, and, therefore, hate flogging and lynchings as much as anybody else. . . ."

* * * *

Mr. Basso agrees with us that there is a social and emotional difference between floggers and lynchers. "Floggings," he thinks, "are cold-blooded, done by a a few people who are either angry or afraid."

* * * *

We must stick to it that there are many honest and literate men in the south who believe in the need of vigilantes, that nothing much can be accomplished towards stopping lynchings and floggings until these men are given a new point of view, and that you can never change their point of view by calling them names.

White Press, Southern

5533

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

Fairhope, Ala., Courier
May 20, 1937

Would it Have Happened?

Of course merely enacting a Federal law would not end lynchings. Once a mob gets in motion it cares little for laws, regardless of what statute books they are written in.

But it is interesting, we think, to speculate as to whether that mob which tortured and lynched two Negroes over in Mississippi Tuesday would ever have got in motion if the Gavagan anti-lynch bill had been in effect, instead of merely in the process of debate.

When news of the outrage reached the floors of Congress, one Mississippi lawmaker arose and said that his state did not "condone" such lawlessness, and that "the good citizens of the state will resent it."—Birmingham Post.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
May 25, 1937

Reason Abdicated In Mob Rule

FATHER and mother and children in their teens joined the motorcade to the mortuary in Bainbridge, Ga., where the dead body of an alleged Negro rapist lay on a slab. Some of the cars carried women alone. Ordinarily, these girls and women fear the sight of death; they even fear insects and might faint at the thought of picking up a caterpillar.

On Sundays they go to church, and pray and sing, and they give of their tenderness to make homes for their fathers and husbands.

But all these ties were broken down by thought of the crime with which the Negro was charged. It was said he had murdered two white women and had attacked the younger of his victims.

The Negro had been killed by officers of the law who claimed he was attempting to escape.

His body had been taken to the undertaker's mortuary.

He represented the cause of the dread which the Georgia whites inherited from reconstruction days—the dread of the crime of rape which has struck apprehension to the minds of fathers and husbands from the very dawn of family life in the world, and which is even more terrifying to those who fear the crime of rape from a person of another race. This double hatred — hatred of another race and hatred of a fearful crime against womanhood, fired the souls of all those Georgia men and women and children as they drove their cars to the mortuary.

They seized the dead body of the Negro, dragged it to the baseball park and burned it. They may have imagined that they were using the body as an example, and that it might prevent rape in the future.

But horror feeds upon horror, and the next lynching will be perhaps a little more ghastly than this, if that is possible, and the next rape will be a little more terrible since the rapist will have the added motive of striking back at a race which burns a dead body.

Nothing was solved by the lynching of the Negro.

Nothing was proved, except that ordinarily gentle Southern women and children can be converted into ghouls and that the fire of hate sears the conscience and turns people into brutish beasts. Mobile, Ala., Register

May 23, 1937

Women In Mississippi To Talk Of Lynching

McCOMB, Miss., May 22.— (AP) Mrs. L. W. Alford, chairman of the Mississippi Council for the Prevention of Lynching, announced today it will hold a public meeting Thursday night at Galloway Memorial Methodist Church at Jackson.

Speakers are to include Rep. Hatton W. Summers of Dallas, Tex., a member of the House judiciary committee; Gov. Hugh White, Bishop T. D. Bratton and Dr. J. L. Decell of Jackson.

Congressman Sumners is to speak on "Why States Must Suppress Lynching."

Hernando, Miss. Promoter
May 13, 1937

ABOUT LYNCHING

Last week this paper published a speech by Hon. John Rankin, of the First district, on what is called the anti-lynching bill. In connection a little comment was published by the publisher. No doubt the impression prevails largely that the supposed intent of this bill is to protect negroes from mobs. Its evident intent is to protect any person of any race or color, but, as Mr. Rankin said, it would fail in its purpose because it provides heavy punishment of an officer from whom a prisoner is taken by a mob and lynched.

There is another thing to be considered. In case this bill becomes a law and a fine of $10,000 was assessed against the county for the benefit of the family of the illegally executed person, who would pay this fine? It would come out of the pockets of the taxpayers, colored, as well as white. No distinction could be made—our colored citizens would have to pay their part. Would they care to go to this additional expense just because some utterly worthless and depraved criminal, guilty of a most heinous crime, was put out of the way by a mob? We think not.

Lynching is not confined to the south, and here it is growing less frequent. All the time sentiment against it is spreading. The best citizens wish for a fair trial of the accused, even in the most revolting cases of criminalty.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
May 18, 1937

More Dixie Editors on Federal Lynching Law

U. S. Lynch Law Insured

[Columbia, S. C., State]

THE Mississippi mob that tortured and then burned to death two young Negro men accused of murdering a white storekeeper during the last week in December, probably insured the passage by Congress of a law giving the Federal Government wide powers in cases of lynching.

The mob refused to permit the white government of Mississippi to function. With contempt for the law and for law officers, they went to town, 200 strong, and took charge of the prisoners whom the officers of the law having them in their keeping were sworn to protect.

The Governor of the State heard of the menace to the dignity of the State too late to call out the National Guard. A circuit judge says the lynching will be "investigated," but adds that the officers who surrendered the prisoners recognized nobody. Naturally. It is almost certain that officers of the law who are too cowardly to attempt to protect a prisoner are too cowardly to recognize any members of a mob.

All over Europe and South America today people are talking about the civilization of the Southern States of America, where human beings are burned to death by people who enjoy practical immunity from punishment!

Well, the Mississippi mob has made it exceedingly difficult even for Southern congressmen to put heart or eloquence into their pleas for States' rights.

Certainly it is the right of States to enforce their own laws; it is their right to maintain their sovereignty. But the mob long since nullified the one and treated with utmost contempt the other.

Another Foul Lynching

[Kinston, N. C., Free Press]

LYNCHING of two Negroes by a Mississippi mob was another outbreak of lawlessness and disregard for the majesty of the law. Irrespective of the crime for which the victims were held, to wit the murder of a white man, the action of the mob but added to the outlawry and brings shame and disgrace upon a good State and community.

The sheriff and his deputies who were in charge of the prisoners when they were taken by the mob, say they recognized none of the lynchers. That's an old story. It was broad daylight and no doubt every man in the mob was a resident of the near-by scene of the murder. If that be so it is perhaps true that the only reason the officers failed to identify members of the mob, was because they shut their eyes and made no attempt to do so.

Details of the mob's violence indicate that the method pursued in doing death to the Negroes was particularly bestial and barbarous. Blow torches were used to slowly "simmer" the victims to death.

Such outrages most certainly inspire Federal legislation.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
April 26, 1937

The double lynching in Mississippi a few days ago may be the deciding factor in the adoption of the Federal anti-lynching bill. The blow-pipe feature marked this particular affair as one of the most brutal in the entire history of lynching, and pictures have been carried in publications of many kinds in all parts of the land. While many of the country's ablest legislators are opposed to the measure on the ground that it is a flagrant and unwarranted invasion of State's rights, the size of the negro vote in Northern and Western States makes it a foregone conclusion that Representatives and Senators from those States, regardless of political persuasion, will fairly fall over themselves to vote for the Gavagan bill. In fact, the House has already done so by a one-sided vote, and the best Southern antagonists of the bill can hope to do in the Senate will be a long-drawn-out filibuster.

Mobile, Ala., Register
May 16, 1937

Lynching Of Negroes Attacked At Hub City

Special to The Press Register

HATTIESBURG, Miss., May 15.—W. C. Newman, president of Grenada College, speaking in a series of religious emphasis week talks at State Teachers College, Thursday, attacked such conduct as the lynching of the negroes recently at Duck Hill, near Grenada.

He described the lynching as a result of a foolish race's believing such action was necessary to keep in submission what that race believes is an inferior race.

Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
May 13, 1937

BILBO ON TOUCHOUS GROUND

Senator Bilbo is demanding an investigation of certain Mississippi college student organizations. He says they are honeycombed with communistic influences.

He is treading on touchous ground.

His investigation might reveal some amazing conditions.

Its a fact that a group of Millsaps College students sent telegrams to Senators and Congressmen urging their support of the vicious Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

Of course, these students are misguided, fooled, and mislead by certain communistic influences that are operating in this country.

Immature minds of college students are not capable of grappling with intricate race and international political and social problems.

They don't know where federal anti-lynching laws will lead to.

The Gavagan bill will never pass the Senate—not as long as there is breath in the bodies of Senator Harrison and other stalwart Southern senators.

If Senator Bilbo's proposal is carried out it might reveal some astounding conditions and influences.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
May 26, 1937

Ladder A-Flame

Members of a mob who broke and burned the body of a Negro in Bainbridge Monday discredited their state, but personally they hurt nobody but themselves.

The Negro was dead already—shot, the sheriff said, when he jumped still handcuffed from an automobile going at 35 miles per hour and ran into the woods. It was bad enough that the Negro, who already had confessed killing two white women, could not have been taken to jail and been given orderly, legal trial. There is no reasonable doubt that he would have been convicted, that he would have been executed, and that the respect for law would have been preserved. His shooting was bad enough.

But far worse was the savagery of a mob who stole his body from a mortuary, dragged it through the streets of an orderly, pleasant town, and burned it on a pile of fence boards in a Negro baseball park.

This was an example of men allowing passion and revengeful hate to overpower reason. There is no right in excoriating passion and hate with more passion and hate. Members of the mob must understand the reason why theirs was a disgraceful and needless lapse from law, from order and from self-respect.

Fundamentally, motivation of such a mob is primitive revenge—nothing more. But when reason once has fallen and mob emotion rules instead, the motivation becomes one of sadistic hysteria, and that alone. Later the men who make such mobs may argue to themselves and believe sincerely that what they did was a lesson and a warning against such future crimes as that of which their victim was accused.

That argument is wrong. In democracy law must be supreme. The Telegraph does not contend that in this country law always is supreme. In many instances it has not been. But every deviation from this supremacy is a deviation toward anarchy, toward public terror, toward rule of hate and lust. Law, not lynch, must be the lesson and deterrent against crime, and unless law is backed by the will of those who make it, it cannot be.

Such grisly spectacles as the fiery cadaver at Bainbridge, instead of solving the South's hard problem of racial readjustment, can only light the spark of hate anew. They can only set progress and memory back into those awful days of reconstruction, violence and death. And who would have them back again?

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 22, 1937

ALABAMA'S TWO VIEWS OF THE LYNCH EVIL

There are two "schools of thought" in Alabama regarding lynch mobs. One believes in the summary execution of offenders against certain laws, particularly the law against assault. This school often controls the grand juries that are summoned to investigate the faithlessness of peace officers in the face of revolting crimes. It is a shallow and irresponsible school.

It is a school that is scorned by Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael—to the glory of Alabama.

Regarding the white-washing of an Alabama sheriff who is charged with negligence in the face of a mob that lynched a Negro accused of attacking a white woman, Mr. Carmichael published a statement in The Advertiser Friday morning in which he, on behalf of the Governor as well as himself, took high ground for that "school of thought" that scorns mob violence. Announcing that the State of Alabama would ignore the recent action of a grand jury in white-washing the accused sheriff, he said he would proceed to bring the sheriff before the Supreme Court for impeachment.

The Governor and the Attorney-General investigated the facts in this case carefully and are convinced that impeachment proceedings are justified.

In the course of his statement Mr. Carmichael wisely and forcefully says:

The recent report of the Grand Jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The impeachment proceedings will proceed and will be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the Attorney General is capable of putting forth.

The framers of our Constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.

I want to take this occasion to say that the Governor of Alabama and the Attorney General of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter; that we are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama State officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character are doing their duty and will continue to do it.

To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this State I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the Attorney General of this State, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great State at my command.

Without prejudice to the sheriff now under fire The Advertiser nevertheless commends the foregoing statement as representative of the best thought in Alabama, the only thought on the subject that in the long run can be trusted.

Let us stop lynching human beings in this otherwise civilized State! The only way to stop it is to strike at the officials who permit it.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
May 24, 1937

Lynchings, Here and In Russia

THE Soviet government executes 20 "anti-government plotters" with a great deal of relish, and looks forward to an early trial "even bigger" very much as we look forward to a new circus "even bigger."

Those who executed the 20 in Russia are the same people whose black protegé in America, Angelo Herndon, recently won a stunning "free speech" victory before the United States Supreme Court.

These are the same people whose proteges in America hold up their hands in holy horror over an occasional lynching. They are dumb-founded when, every year or so, we lynch an occasional rapist, murderer or sexual maniac—but the lynching of those who indulge in free speech in Russia is an honorable thing.

They are the same people whose proteges in this country, outside of the Tammany Democrats, are the chief advocates of federal anti-lynching legislation. To all except themselves, they cry woe unto them who do not keep the scales of justice in perfect balance.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
June 24, 1937

WHY ARE LYNCHINGS?

From the Lanier County News.

One of the answers is that fellow Rozier, who attacked several young girls, almost babies, and was sentenced to be electrocuted last Friday, but who gets a new trial on the grounds that he is crazy.

Even if he is crazy, he should have been electrocuted as his trial at Waycross directed. He is more dangerous than a mad dog or rattlesnake running at large and should not be allowed to live.

When people are convinced that rapists and cold-blooded murderers will be dealt with promptly by the law as they deserve to be, lynchings will doubtless be a thing of the past, but certainly not before.

Lynchings-1937
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

5534

Charlottesville, Va. Progress
January 9, 1937

Lynching

One evidence that mob rule is subsiding and proper recourse to law is beginning to prevail throughout the land appears in the reduction of lynchings during the past year.

Only nine persons, all Negroes, were victims of mass violence in 1936. A leafing-back through the statistics of previous years shows that this compares favorably with 1933, 1934, and 1935 when twenty-eight, fifteen, and twenty alleged criminals respectively met death at the end of a lynchman's rope.

One vital factor is to be associated with the downward trend in illegal homicides. The increasing vigilance of officers during custody of their prisoners, which included the prompt removal of the accused to safe prisons remote from the scene of the crime, has been effective in preventing execution by certain aroused citizenry.

Regardless of circumstances, the resort to lynching is indefensible. Many respectable citizens, enraged over the sluggish law machinery, filled like a soup-strainer with loopholes, have been led to take the law into their own hands with a feeling of justification. But the law has been the "goat" too much of late and deserves more respect. While often slow it is thorough and when a life is at stake orderly process is imperative.

Sheffield, Ala., Daily
January 4, 1937

Orchids For The South

One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

Furthermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings; and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, 69 people—all but seven of them negroes—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact which northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out.

Winterhaven, Fla., Chief
December 30, 1936

CUTTING DOWN OUR LYNCHING RECORD.

The United States is improving a little in one respect — the number of lynchings has decreased during 1936 as compared with the past several years. Nine persons met their deaths violently through these "outside-the-law" depredations of persons who thereby belied their Americanism and became lawbreakers of the most criminal type. Not one of the nine persons lynched but could have been dealt with effectively through due process of law, as was the case with Hauptmann and the negro Moore, murderer of Helen Clevenger, and any number of others who went to the electric chair or the gallows in expiation of their crimes against society. Possibly some day people will learn to control their animalistic emotions and stop long enough to realize that the ones they harm most by yielding to lawless practices of this nature are their law-abiding neighbors who have to suffer the stigma which falls on their communities because of the passion and lust for revenge on the part of a few. We are sorry to note that Florida got into the lynching list again this year with one crime chalked against her fair name. We trust by another year her name will be clear of the stigma of lynching and will always remain so. Only a few states in the Union have escaped the blight of this form of lawlessness throughout their history, indicating that the North and West have no reason to look askance at Dixie when it comes to being a sinner in this respect. It is heartening to note that the most fearless editorials against lynching and the most courageous stand by organizations against this crime come from the South, where the law-abiding citizens condemn it more strongly possibly than those in any other part of the country. We confidently expect to see a "Lynchless America" in the near future.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 13, 1937

Dixie—Citadel of Lynchers

Georgia has been getting some unfavorable publicity recently as a result of the announcement that five of the country's nine lynchings in 1936 took place in this state, but the Richmond Times-Dispatch cites past statistics which show that Georgia hasn't the worst record over a 45-year period. According to figures published in the University of North Carolina News Letter covering this matter, Mississippi gets first place, with 462 lynchings since 1889 or 22.98 per 100,000 population. Georgia had 458 during that period, but with its larger population, this is only 15.75 per 100,000 population. Florida and Louisiana surpass George in lynchings per capita. The honor roll in states, in which not one single lynching has taken place in forty-five years follows: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Richmond paper makes this comment:

> Obviously, New England is a section where lynchings are unknown. The South, on the other hand, is the citadel of lynching. It is true that New England has no race problem of consequence, whereas the South has such a problem, but that is no answer. Lynchings are always wrong, for they are in defiance of law and order, they permit human beings to give way to instincts of savagery, and they frequently make innocent persons their victims.
>
> It may be taken for granted that another federal anti-lynching bill will be introduced at this session of Congress. What will be its fate? The Costigan-Wagner bill probably would have passed in 1935, except for a filibuster by Southern senators.

"Instead of arranging filibusters," the Times-Dispatch concluded, "members of the national Legislature from the South would do well to remedy the evil which leads to periodic introduction of corrective measures at Washington. It is good news that only nine persons were put to death by lynchers during 1936, but how long will it be before there are none at all?"

Jackson, Tenn. Sun
January 17, 1937

A Record for South

One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

Furthermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings; and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep South. Altogether, 69 people—all but seven of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact which northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out.

Bristol, Va., News-Bulletin
January 2, 1937

Orchids for South

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Vicksburg, Miss. Post
January 4, 1937

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Bremen, Ga., Gateway
January 14, 1937

When the roll of lynchings for 1936 is compiled, it is found that Georgia led all the rest, with a total of five, while not one occurred in the surrounding states of Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Why this breakdown is law and order in the state of Georgia? That is a question that should interest churches, the educational leaders and all the thoughtful citizens in all the walks of life.

A state that takes pronounced leadership in lynching is not the state which is going to appeal most strongly to those seeking new homes or new fields of investment, and Georgians should take steps to end the existing condition.

When outbreaks of mob violence increase it shows a significant lack of enforcement as well as a lack of support for the law, and that is always bad. Georgians are too rich in religious, moral and spiritual qualities to permit a condition of this nature to continue but it will continue unless these influences are put to work more aggressively.—Gadsden, Ala., Times.

THE LAW IN THEIR HANDS

In the year just ended there was no instance of mob violence in the state of Alabama, and for a number of years this state has been an example to its less thoughtful and law-abiding neighbors on all sides. However, early Tuesday morning a group of self-righteous citizens entered the jail at Abbeville, removed a lawful prisoner of the law and committed a crime which has been condemned by Christian society since Stephen was stoned.

According to Henry County officers, the mob was orderly and quiet. It was not a group of drunks who pulled the unfortunate accused from his cell; it was a crowd of forty or fifty men who undoubtedly consider themselves pillars of Henry County society, and they were probably well satisfied with themselves when they left the haltered and bullet-heavy body at the side of the country road to go home and have out their sleep. And most likely they slept well.

Every man, whether black or white, inside or out, regardless of his crime, has a right to a trial and, if the verdict warrants, to a decent death. As old as the South is the saying that examples must be made of Negroes. It seems never to occur to lynchers that their actions set a far worse example than the crime of the lynched.

We have law in Alabama. We have laws against rape and against attempt to rape, and except for a few regrettable instances the law has not failed to carry out its proper function. A group which attempts to make a stupid and horrible joke of the laws of this state does more to break down the government than any criminal.

If the men who instigated the lynching in Abbeville are proud of what they have done, if they think that they have accomplished something to tell their children about, if they gather old-woman-fashion around the hot stoves of the country stores to describe again and again how the Negro kicked and twitched as he died in the cool night and how his body rolled from the car into the ditch on the lonely road, then law and decency mean little in Henry County.

Where there was one crime, there is now a total of more than forty crimes. And no figures in the world can be made to balance the one against the forty.—Eufaula Tribune.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 26, 1937

Barbarians!

Sometimes civilized men are turned into barbarians when they see an act of barbarism. Stupidity breeds stupidity and barbarism breeds barbarism. Sane men often go mad when they see a heinous act committed, and in their haste to avenge a crime they commit crime themselves.

That is the story of the brutal murders reported at Bainbridge, Ga., this week. A Negro is said to have killed two white women after attacking one of them. His crime was the crime of a beast, and people everywhere are sickened by the thought of it. The Negro deserved at the hands of the law the severest punishment, and no sympathy.

The Negro was arrested at Dothan, and was being taken to the jail in Albany, Ga., when, according to officers, he leaped from the car and ran. The handcuffed Negro was shot dead, instead of being retaken as it would seem he might easily have been in his shackled condition. A thorough investigation is in order.

And then an act, deliberate and planned, was committed that was repulsive like the crimes. The Negro's body was in a morgue, and a mob estimated at more than 100 members took the body, tied a rope around it and dragged it through the public square at Bainbridge. A procession of shrieking automobiles followed the body to a baseball park where a pyre was made and the body burned to ashes. More than 100 usually sane men were turned barbarians by the outrageous act of a single person!

What a nauseating spectacle!

It is revolting, first, to think of the horrible acts attributed to the Negro. It is distressing to think that officers were unable to bring their prisoner safely to jail. And then to cap it all, a mob deliberately committed acts of ghastly horror upon a lifeless body.

Lynchings—1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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New Iberia, La. Iberian
April 22, 1937

LYNCHING AND POLITICS

The vote-getting boys on Capitol Hill had a fine mor-
sel for propaganda purposes last week. Two negroes
were lynched in Mississippi, and howl went up from the
boys in Congress, resulting in the passing of the time-
worn Anti-Lynching Law.

The law will be sent to the Senate where it will pro-
baby meet defeat. But there's no telling.

This is a wrinkle in the political horn that in a way
puts several Senators from Southern states on the spot.

Those versed in the law say that the proposal made
against Southern states by Congress is not constitu-
tional, and that the Supreme Court with its present
personnel would stamp it as such. But should the at-
tempt to pack the High Court succeed, there is no tell-
ing just how the new members would react toward the
Anti-Lynching Law.

By voting to change the Supreme Court a Southern
Senator may at the same time be voting to uphold this
obnoxious legislation which is revolting to all those who
believe in States' Rights.

The Northern Representatives and Senators are of
course playing politics, but at the same time they are
playing with fire. There is entirely too much authority
vested in Washington. And this infringement upon the
rights of the Southern States—and the purpose of the
proposed law is simply that—is just a step nearer dic-
tator rule from Washington, whether we want to ad-
mit it or not.

Charlotte, N. C. News
April 14, 1937

This Terrible Thing

The second and third lynchings of 1937 took place simultaneously yesterday in Mississippi. Two Negroes were put to death, one mercifully by comparison, with a shot through his brain, the other fiendishly by degrees with a blowtorch.

"This terrible thing will be investigated immediately by the grand jury," declared the judge of the circuit. These terrible things always are investigated. "I did not recognize any members of the mob," said the Sheriff from whom the Negroes were taken in broad daylight by men not masked. Sheriffs never do recognize any of the mobsters. That is where the investigations hang up and that is why lynchings go unavenged.

If there is one Southern State which has given every sign of a hatred of lynching and a determination to bring mobsters to justice, that State is Alabama. Yet it was in Alabama that 1937's first lynching took place, and though the Governor and other authorities moved immediately to find the guilty parties and to punish them, nothing has come of it in the two and a half months since the lynching took place. Where Alabama has failed, Mississippi, a State less jealous of her good name, is unlikely to succeed.

Are we not warranted, then, in assuming that if lynchings are to be punished like other crimes, some other agency than the state governments must do it? Could not the G-men unearth in a jiffy damning evidence that sheriffs and county officials are unwilling or afraid to disclose? Would not the fear of punishment suppress the lynching lust?

We put these questions in leading form not to answer them, for we don't know the answers. If we did it would be easy to know how to take the Gavagan bill.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
May 5, 1937

Geography and Lynchings

There is not a true Southerner who does not rejoice that lynchings are reaching the vanishing point. Not a few Southern officers have risked their lives to save men threatened by lynchers. Their bravery and the fight to end that disgrace has helped to reduce lynching. Without national laws it has been nearly eradicated and will be fully eradicated.

The Philadelphia Record calls on the country to "Stop the Northern Lynchers, Too." In a recent editorial it calls on Northern liberals, who have been vocal against Southern lynching, not to shut their eyes to the bullying and beating of prisoners and the "legal lynchings" that take place regularly in the supposedly enlightened section of the country. It adds:

New York City has recently been acquiring an unenviable notoriety in the systematic beating up of prisoners by police. Pennsylvania has been shocked and disgraced by the killing of Frank C. Monaghan while he was being "questioned" by State troopers. The conduct of Justice George W. Maxey, presiding at the trial of one of the troopers, did nothing to reassure the public that violators of the law would be punished even if they happened to wear a State uniform.

Under the circumstances, passage of a bill outlawing the "third degree" sponsored by State Senator Law at Harrisburg, would be a wholesome gesture. This measure would specifically class third-degree police methods as felonies and provide stern penalties for police who injure suspects in attempts to extract confessions.

The third degree is nothing less than the covert survival of torture as an instrument of the law—a practice supposedly discarded by all civilized States some centuries ago.

The third degree is less spectacular, less revolting, than outright lynching. But it is quite as dangerous as lynching in undermining real respect for law and the decent administration of justice.

There are no borders in human brutality nor any geographical limits on ruthless distortion of the law.

Mobile, Ala., Press
May 10, 1937

Harlan And Anti-Lynching

The Senate civil liberties subcommittee has continued its subpoenas for witnesses who testified concerning lawlessness in Harlan County, Kentucky. Hence any reprisals taken against such witnesses would constitute federal offenses. In the meantime, the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, aimed at another form of lawlessness, is being held up in the Senate judiciary committee until that body submits its report on the President's supreme court proposal.

When revelations were made recently as to acts of violence, occasionally mounting to murder, against trade unionists and union organizers in Harlan County, some Southern members of Congress were quick to point out the analogy to lynching. Representative Robsion of Kentucky was twitted in the House on April 23 with having voted for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, for his district contains Harlan County.

Mr. Robsion was one of the members below the Mason-Dixon line who voted for the Gava-

votes recorded from Missou
all six from Maryland, all
ginia, and the one from D
The striking point about the vote of more than
2 to 1 by which the House passed the bill on
April 15 was the presence of certain Southern
Democrats in the affirmative ranks. Repre
sentative [illegible] of Texas and four fellow
Democrats voted aye. Mr
Creal, Democrat of Kentucky, went with his
Republican colleague for the bill, as did the
two Republican members from Tennessee. As
for the other border states—five of the 11
In the House debate, the point was made that
a mob may consist of approximately one-half of all persons lynch
ssouri were for the bill,
all six from West Vir-
m Delaware—Democrats
the mob's action has the purpose or the result
of depriving its victim of his guaranteed right
of due process of law or equal protection of
the laws.
The question of constitutionality aside, this
limitation on the bill's scope may seriously
weaken its effectiveness if it should be enacted.
e Gavagan anti-lynching
this or at the 1938 ses-
pected to discourage law-
Harlan. Although the
Lynching" measure, it is
f mob violence; and for
directed at any case of
the purposes of the bill a

n the United States in the last 50 years had not been taken from the custody of public officials.

This narrowness in scope of the Gavagan bill may be rectified when the measure is considered by the Senate judiciary committee and then by the Senate, provided it gets to the floor. The Southern members who are prepared to filibuster against the measure may even vote to make it apply when victims have not been taken from the custody of officials, in the hope of weakening the case for the constitutionality of the measure.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
April 30, 1937

UNCALLED FOR LYNCHING

From the heading of this article, one might draw conclusions that there are "called for" lynchings. Well, whether there are or not, there are some lynchings not so bad as others. And to our mind the Montgomery county lynching last week when two negroes in the hands of the Court under trial were taken out and burned was one of the worst and most uncalled for lynchings from more than one viewpoint. Not only was there a spirit of brutality shown that does no credit to humanity, but a gross lack of knowledge of self-preservation was displayed on the part of those who committed the unlawful act, regardless of how brutal the crime of the one lynched. If there is ever a "called for" lynching, it is not one that occurs so long as there is a possibility of the Courts administering the punishment, for no kind of a lynching does the lynchers any permanent good, but too frequently much personal harm, and we venture to say that the ones who administered the blow torch and the match in this case will bear us out already in our statement. We have never attended a lynching bee, but we have known men who have, and unless those engaged in the one last week possess hearts of stone, their neighbors will soon note a change in their lives. So the man or men who engage in such brutal lynchings as the one in question, exposes a great ignorance and lack of self-preservation. They won, and they lost, regardless of whether they ever have to answer to the human Courts or not.

Gainesville, Ga., Eagle
April 29, 1937

LYNCHING

LAST week in Winona, Miss., two negroes were seized by a mob, forced with the aid of a blow torch to admit murdering a white grocer and then lynched. That same week by vote of 277 to 119 the House of Representatives passed a bill making lynching a federal offense and sent it to the Senate.

Washington observers say the measure will not pass the Senate due to opposition on the part of Southern Senators. It is believed that these Senators will resort to a filibuster before voting on the bill and thus impede other legislation, more especially the President's Supreme Court proposal. The surface objection to the measure is that control of lynching is a state's right, but the real underlying opposition is the fact that a federal investigation and trial would go hard on lynchers, while state courts seldom try such cases because state grand juries seldom indict.

Lynching is a crime that has no justification. There may be some argument in favor of the family, incensed beyond reason and cool thinking because of the injury, taking the law in its hands. But for a mob oftentimes comprised of emotional characters that are swept off their feet by the prevailing excitement and frenzied oratory of the ringleaders, to take a human life without due process of law is a flagrant violation of the American principle of justice and fairness.

It is to be hoped that the Southern Senators will rise above sectional prejudices and political ambitions. The bill should be passed. The South has too long suffered frequent black eyes because of mobs and their lawlessness, to say nothing of the travesty on justice.

Those who believe in law and order, in a fair trial by an impartial jury—two tenets of American and Democratic government—should notify Senators George and Russell to support the bill.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
April 30, 1937

But this doesn't relieve us of our responsibility. Lynching must cease in the South. And the only way to stop the practice is to send a lot of lynchers to jail. — Mississippi Exchange.

Your remedy is not worth the paper its written on. The only way to stop the lynchings in the South is to stop the cause, or strictly enforce the laws against the criminals.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
May 28, 1937

HOUSE LEADER WARNS STATES ON LYNCHINGS

Sumners Addresses Society Meeting at Jackson

SAYS RIGHTS AT STAKE

Government to Take Over Responsibility for Control if Violence is Continued — Improved Condition Noted

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., May 27.—States must extend their governmental responsibility to the suppression of lynching if they are to remain sovereign, Representative Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, said here today.

"Unless this is done, the federal government will step in and usurp this power and the states will no longer retain their sovereignty," he told a mass meeting of the Mississippi division, Society of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Violence Reduced

Citing the improved condition in respect to law enforcement, Mr. Sumners said since 1892 the number of lynchings has been reduced 98 per cent.

"Yet," he said, "at this session of Congress over 60 bills to prevent lynching by giving the federal government the right to prosecute states were introduced.

"The people backing these bills are those residing in big gang-ridden cities where combinations of crooked politicians and gangsters murder and terrorize and rob. They are looking with a spyglass into the southern states for something to bestir righteous indignation.

"They do not give us any encouragement for the improved condition, which last year revealed less than nine lynchings. We are working out this condition, and if let alone will have it under complete control.

Two Negroes Lynched

"We did not have any hope of defeating the Gavagan bill in the House recently, but we had expected to send it to the Senate with a bigger negative vote than followed the Dyer anti-lynching bill in 1922.

"But, in the middle of our fight, and on the eve of a vote, a mob in a southern state (Mississippi—the double lynching at Duck Hill) took two prisoners from officers and lynched them."

Mr. Sumners said during his more than 24 years in the House, it had fallen to his lot to defend the sovereign right and duty of the states to govern within the scope of their governmental capacity.

He said he favored state suppression of lynching instead of federal intervention.

Understand People

"We have reduced lynching 98 per cent and we can finish the job," he said. "Why not leave us alone and see what we can do about it further? We know how to do the job better than the federal government, because we understand our people.

"You cannot make a government of a free people, our sort of government, functions from the top downward. A great governmental overlord cannot be established in Washington to place the hand of superior authority above the voice of the elected representatives of the people, and perpetuate this system of government.

"If there ever was a time when we needed to turn in the other direction, it is now," Mr. Sumners said.

Lynchings – 1937
6 Discussions

White Ross, Southern

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Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
April 15, 1937

MIRACLE NEEDED.

Those sadistic Mississippians who informally executed two murder suspects with blow torches Tuesday did more than lynch two negroes—they probably lynched the hopes of the Southern States of blocking passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which under the guise of reducing lynching, would put the hands of the Federal Government into the enforcement of the local law in every community in the United States.

Anti-lynching legislation is like child labor legislation: best left to the individual States.

There was some hope of the Gavagan bill being blocked in Congress until the disgusting exhibition in Mississippi where a mob seized two negroes suspected of murder and tortured them to death with blow torches.

As we see it there is only one thing which can happen now to nullify the effect on Congress of the Duck Hill lynching, and that thing is for the law enforcement agencies of Mississippi to capture, convict and mete appropriate punishment upon the lynchers.

That would be a miracle!

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
April 15, 1937

Why Lynching Alone?

Mississippi has added another lynching to the country's record in the field of lawlessness—to her everlasting shame. Two negroes were burned at the stake by mobsmen after they had been tortured with blow torches for the murder robbery of a white storekeeper last December.

Of course the outrage should be condemned, the men participating in it punished if their identity can be established and this should be possible if effort is made. Yet it is permissible to inquire the cause of delay in trial of the mob's victims. The murder was committed last year and they had only been arraigned to plead—not guilty. The presumption is that they had counsel, furnished them if they were unable to employ legal help. We've no fault to find with this. It was proper. Still the fact persists that the murderers—they confessed as the flames leaped about them—had no idea of admitting their guilt as long as they believed they had an opportunity to escape the penalty prescribed for their crime. That is human, however, and perhaps they shouldn't be censured for it. Most of us would have done the same thing, sworn falsely on the Bible. Life is that sweet. And the lynching was wrong, as wrong as a thing can be. Still the mob gave them as much chance as they gave their victim and at least felt it was justified no matter how unsound the opinion was. Their act which they confessed was without the suggestion of justification.

And, of course, it was to have been expected that northern proponents of an anti-lynching law would have seized on the transpiring as an argument in favor of their proposal. In their mind it clinched the argument for such legislation. Possibly this is so but what is to be gained by providing punishment for a secondary offense so long as laxity is permitted to govern disposition of matters that bring on these second violations.

Also it is difficult for we of the south to understand the difference of construction that is put on lawlessness. If an individual is lynched below the Mason and Dixon line the soundness of our civilization is questioned even though the offense that stirred the avengers may have been unspeakable in nature. Yet the north, east and middle west can have their gang wars with attendant slaughter, often of innocents, without attracting more than passing interest or comment. The Herald is without inclination to justify the violence that lynch law is but in fairness things that are not permissible should be seen as a common evil, not a sectional shortcoming.

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth.
April 16, 1937

PETITIONS NOT NEEDED

Petitions will be circulated asking Governor Hugh L. White to make a full investigation of the lynching of two negroes in Montgomery.

The spirit that inspires the petitions is to be applauded, but as a matter of fact there is no need of petitions to urge Governor White to do all that is within the power of the governor to make a full and complete probe of the unfortunate incident.

It should be recognized that the Governor under Mississippi law has comparatively little authority in what the law holds to be purely local affairs, and thus far in Mississippi, law enforcement is a matter of locality.

The Governor, had he had all the knowledge in the world, of a threatened mob in Montgomery county, would have been powerless to send guard troops to Winona without a request from the sheriff of the county or from the circuit judge. Apparently the plans of the mob were so well concealed that there was no warning of the mob, and there was nothing in advance to indicate that violence was threatened.

The Mississippi legislature has not yet seen fit to give to its chief executive either the means or authority to make investigations, but it is a power that the executive should have.

The Duck Hill negroes have been lynched. If the sentiment now aroused would be maintained and turned in the direction of granting authority to the Governor to move for the protection of criminals preceding and after trial, the petitioners can well rest assured that Governor White would spare no effort nor expense in preventing mob action anywhere within the state, or in bringing members of a mob to justice afterward.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
April 16, 1937

ASKING FOR IT

The Mississippi gang of brutes that burned one Negro alive and shot another after torturing him with a blow torch not only succeeded in disgracing their State but intensified the determination of certain members of Congress to enact an anti-lynching bill.

Governor White says he will conduct an "investigation," which in all likelihood will fizzle out after the fashion of all such investigations.

If public opinion didn't condone lynchings "under certain conditions"—which means practically all lynchings — the mobsters would be promptly arrested and punished. And that very state of affairs is inspiring Congressmen to pass an anti-lynching law which would levy a fine of $10,000 against the county in which a lynching is staged.

It is an unfair, unjust law. But the mob spirit has invited it.

And if it is enacted, we will have nobody to blame but the public opinion which says:

"There's times when a man ought to be lynched."

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 15, 1937

AS PREDICTED by this column yesterday, the brutal lynching of two negroes in Mississippi spurred efforts to pass federal anti-lynching bill. Lynchers lynch themselves; they lynch law and order and government and humanity.

CRIME is a poor business. Edgar Sanderson, 65, confessed to New York police that he had robbed a thousand homes in six years. His profits were less than $4,000. He could have done better than that by going on relief.

OF THE 23 aspirants for city commission a dozen candidates remained yesterday after checking petitions. That is enough to stir up Miami, make the welkin ring.

Commissioner Sewell, a leading candidate for re-election, reported on his recent trip to Washington, noted the favorable attention given plans for improved harbor and Pan-American Exposition building, two excellent projects. These fitted into Pan-American day observance. Uniting two continents through Miami.

LYNCHING IS CONDEMNED

Meridian District Methodists Flay Action at Duck Hill

MERIDIAN, Miss., April 17.—Vigorously attacking the lynching of two negroes at Duck Hill, the Meridian district of the Methodist Church in a conference at Rose Hill adopted a resolution condemning the action as a "cowardly and fiendish act."

The resolution committee was composed of Dr. Joseph A. Smith, the Rev. O. S. Lewis, the Rev. J. L. Carter of Meridian and the Rev. C. C. Clark of Philadelphia.

A DESIRABLE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Frank H. Hallion, a negro who was born and reared in Lynchburg, Va., but who now lives in Jamaica, N. Y., has prepared and is the sponsor of an anti-lynching bill which has none of the objectionable features of the pending Gavagan measure, recently passed in the lower house of congress and now awaiting action of the senate.

Hallion is seeking some member of congress who understands the attitude of the south towards lynching to introduce his bill as a substitute for the Gavagan bill.

His measure should receive the approval of white southerners as well as of the thoughtful and intelligent leaders of his own race.

The proposed law, briefly, provides that the federal authorities, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the federal courts may assist in the investigation of lynchings, the apprehension of mob members and their prosecution, when their aid is requested by the Governor or legislature of the state where the mob outrage has occurred.

There can be no reasonable objection to a statute such as this, directed at the stamping out of a distressing evil, when that measure seeks only to aid in the apprehension and prosecution of those responsible.

The provision that federal aid be extended only upon the request of the public officials of the state affected thoroughly protects the states in their inalienable rights to the police power over their citizens. At the same time it strengthens the arm of justice and makes it possible for the state itself to subject perpetrators of mob crimes to arrest and prosecution free from local influence. In mob outbreaks, when law enforcement is left in the hands of local authorities only, it is inevitable that local sentiment influences justice.

The states, in recent years, have made marked progress in their efforts to stamp out mob crimes. Education, that necessarily slow but only real cure for evil, is having its effect. The record of lynching through the years tells its own story of the gradual stamping out of this frightful evil.

Such a measure as that advocated by Hallion is the only proper means of federal approach to the problem. It is an intelligent, reasonable, acceptable aid to the states in their fight against one of the darkest blots on the escutcheon of modern civilization.

What is more, it is probably constitutional, while the obnoxious Gavagan bill, in all probability, is not.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
April 15, 1937

Hoodlumism in Mississippi

The latest story of lynching outrage coming out of the Deep South will add no points to the argument of those who contend that the federal government should be given no authority to assume jurisdiction in the warfare against mobsters and hoodlums.

At Duck Hill, Mississippi, two young Negroes, believed to be the slayers of a white storekeeper, were chained to trees and tortured with blow torches before being killed. After suffering this torture and partially "confessing" under the persuasive influence of the acetylene fire, one of the Negroes was then riddled with bullets from several barking revolvers. The other victim was made the center of a pyre which, together with his body, was drenched with gasoline. A match set off the pyre and he was burned to death.

Instances of such barbarity is enough to make the flesh crawl. But it is not in the fact of lynching, of mob violence alone, that the need of a better method of eradicating the evil becomes apparent. It is in the peculiar political aspects of law enforcement in the agricultural counties of the South.

In our rural areas law enforcement is in the hands of elective officials. In many of these sections the Negro seldom, if ever, votes. Consequently, in all too many cases, the sheriffs and other officers deal very discreetly, to say the least, with white voters, "free, white and 21," who have participated in lynching bees. Strange though it may seem, officers who know hundreds of citizens in every section of a county are more often than not unable to identify any members of mobs who take colored prisoners away from them and are unable to find anyone who can make such identification.

This is what encourages the continued practicing of lynching in the South. Those who go on record as being against such barbarous hoodlumism, but who oppose a federal anti-lynching law insist with much show of logic that federal court jurors in the South are Southerners and that they would turn a mobster loose as quickly as a state court juror would. Probably so. But the trouble is that under the present set-up not even a state court juror is ever called upon to hear a case against Mr. Lyncher, simply because no lynching bee cases ever get into the state courts. Of course, there may be a few isolated exceptions, but can you recall any lynching cases in this or any other Southern state occurring within recent years, in which the matter got farther than the grand jury room, if it got that far?

With a federal law in force, the G-men, who are not bound up with political red tape, would step into each lynching case and investigate it thoroughly. The odds are that these cases would reach a petit jury. And the average petit juror in the South is reasonably intelligent and fairly decent. He could be trusted to assist, we believe, in wiping out the blot which stains the civilization of the South.

Another Livid Scar

Add to a long list of atrocities the Bainbridge, Ga., orgy of hysteria and mob madness.

The ugly scar left on the memory of that Georgia community by the fiendish murder of two women is made more livid and lasting by the unwarranted slaying of the Negro, claimed to have been the murderer and attacker, and the nauseating public demonstration which centered about the burning of his bullet-riddled body.

Humanity and civilization both are degraded by such barbarism.

There can be no doubt as to the outcome of the trial of a person found guilty of so heinous a crime, so why undermine the very foundation of society by violating the law so vital to its preservation?

Every man, be he murderer, rapist or thief is entitled to trial before a fair and impartial jury. And let us not forget that to countenance denial of such trial to one means the weakening of the most important safeguard of the lives and liberty of us all.

We cannot afford to revert to jungle law nor can we leave unchallenged actions of officers sworn not only to apprehend but to protect and deliver criminals before the bar of justice.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
May 26, 1937

Student Union And the Lynching Bill

They are having a little fun over in Mississippi where the American Student union at Millsaps college has endorsed the "anti-lynching" bill. Senator Bilbo has charged the students with being communists and the students have charged that Senator Bilbo is "an echo of W R Hearst." Evidently believing that this is about as harsh a thing as they could have said about Senator Bilbo, the students almost apologize in these terms, "We are sorry to say it, but that is his tone."

A few days ago we defended American college students from such slurs as have been cast by Senator Bilbo. We still doubt that these students are communists or very well settled in any political faith. But we do wish they would read the objections to the "anti-lynching bill."

"Does Senator Bilbo advocate mob violence? . . . Is he indifferent to it? . . . If not, why does he oppose laws to hinder it?" asks the union bulletin. We do not know what Senator Bilbo thinks about mob violence or why he opposes the suggested law. But we can fairly assume that Senator Bilbo opposes mob violence and also a law that would not hinder it but aggravate it.

The bill in question would penalize a sheriff who permitted a prisoner to be taken away from him. At present most sheriffs make strenuous efforts to protect their prisoners and to shift them to other jails when mob violence threatens. If the sheriff fears that a mob might seize his prisoner he will be encouraged not to make an arrest. And if arrests are not made for serious crimes such as those which generally lead to mob action, lynching will not only be encouraged—it will be made necessary.

When we were without law we relied upon vigilante committees. When our laws were interpreted by invaders so as to protect malefactors of the worst sort and to deny protection to law abiding citizens we relied upon the original klan. If bestial criminals are not arrested by the regular officers, they will have to be dealt with by extra-legal tribunals.

Is the American Student union in favor of mob violence? If not, why do they advocate a law that will encourage it?

Lynchings-1937
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Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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Milledgeville, Ga., Times
April 23, 1937

POLITICAL LYNCHING

Recently we announced to the World in general that we were very much opposed to lynching in any form, and thereby caused a mild sensation. Our ideas have not changed on the subject in the least.

It is our contention that every man or woman charged with any offense should be given an umbiased trial, and an opportunity to prepare a defense. We also believe that every fair-minded, impartial person thinks the same. We are also of the opinion that the average man is good enough sport to desire fair play at any cost.

Now what we really started out to say is "What is Lamar Murdaugh trying to remedy at the State Sanitarium?" We would like to know, the citizens of Georgia would like to know. Are conditions so terrible, so horrible that Mr. Murdaugh fears to offend the sensitive ears of Georgia Crackers with a true and unbiased account of affairs at the Sanitarium?

If so, why not make an outright accusation, and call upon the accused individuals for an accounting of their shortcomings. Is there anything out of place in such a suggestion?

It has been whispered that 'politics' was the basic reason for the discharge of HOMER BIVINS, SID JONES, MRS. JONES and MRS. BIVINS. If this is true, why not say so and be done with the many insinuations that have been reflected against the characters of public servants whose long and efficient records spoke more plainly for themselves than all the information that can be obtained by undercover, secret investigators who can only REPORT SUCH FACTS as they have been ORDERED to bring back with them.

If these people who have given of the best years of their life to the administration of an important state institution are guilty of a heinous crime, then let their friends and the state at large in on the secret.

Those little words 'no official reason given' will certainly become monstrous nightmares to the Rivers administraton unless the already faltering SHIP of STATE is piloted to safer waters.

STOP THESE LYNCHINGS.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
April 20, 1937

That Lynching Bill

William Mitchell, Yalobusha County, was convicted of slaying two negroes

Near Winona two negroes were accused of slaying a white man.

The white man's case has been fumbled from one court to another. The negroes' case was dispensed by a mob.

Both cases were cases of brutal, ruthless murder, yet the white man's case lingers and the negroes' case was dispatched.

People don't like for you to write about such things but truth neglected invariably results harmfully.

This situation has prompted Congress to pass an anti-lynching bill. There is one specific danger in the bill recently passed by the lower house in Washington. There is a strong possibility that such a law would give some negroes a false sense of security which might prompt crimes which, would otherwise not occur. This, as we see it, is the primary danger in the bill. Furthermore, if a mob should dispense with an individual and then the county paid the victim's wife and children from $2,000 to $10,000 it would precipitate a situation which would not be wholesome to the morale of the community.

However, there has been more nonsense written in opposition to this bill than on any other recent question. To say that it is a direct reflection upon the southland is no contrary argument for the South has so conducted itself as to invite criticism. Therefore the argument of sectionalism does not hold up in the light of logic.

To say that it is a criticism of our state courts is not sound argument because all state courts in so far as lynchings are concerned have been absolutely functionless and inefficient—in fact totally inadequate—so this is no argument against the bill.

To say that the bill is based on prejudice and malice is another divergent from logic for assuredly brutality and cruelty has been evinced on occasions in the South sufficient to justify the emotional reactions which have been stimulated, therefore this is no argument against the bill.

To say that it reflects upon the officers of the law is assuredly a weak argument for the officers of the law are entitled to no consideration in so far as their coping with this problem is concerned. In many, many cases they have been friendly to the mob spirit. And yet some officers have done their duty in the face of vigorous opposition.

To say that it is a violation of state rights is just so much chatter. There has never been any law of any consequence which has given the federal government authority but that has been attacked on the basis of state rights.

You don't hear our people raising their voices in opposition to the federal government taking care of relief. On the other hand the states are consistently looking to the federal government to take care of relief problems and education and old age pensions, etc. We cry state rights when it is a convenient alibi.

The lynching problem is one which is seldom faced squarely and the reason is that few of us care to admit the ugly things about our weaker personalities or our community dispositions. Sections have vanity just as individuals And it takes a mighty big man to see his vanity punctured and yet face it without resentment.

But in the face of this weak argument which has been advanced against the lynching bill we face it with fear and foreboding for there is grave danger of it creating a racial attitude which would not be conducive to the best interests of our people.

And furthermore all of the things who is it that has cleaned up these gangsters? Is it not the federal government that has stepped in with its sentimental froth and force ourselves which we have said regarding the Southgangsters in general? No one has ad- are equally true of the North and the East and the West. All of us live in glass houses and none of us is without vigorous and efficient attack shame. It so happens that in that in stance that the nation is pointing anvanced the argument of states rights accusing finger at the southland. in this instance.

Incidentally much is said about And yet despite all of this argument gangsters of the North and East. But ment pro and con we do not think the lynching bill will pass the Senate.

Tupelo, Miss. News
April 20, 1937

WHITE WANTS REPORT OF LYNCHINGS.

Governor Hugh White said here the other day that he had instructed District Attorney Morgan of Winona to make a thorough investigation into the lynchings of two negroes accused in the murder of a Duck Hill merchant and to report back to him.

"I'm afraid nothing will come of it," the district attorney was quoted as saying.

"It was the most orderly mob I ever saw," the sheriff of that county declared.

Officers who were overpowered by the mob said that they "did not recognize any of the men."

That's the situation as it stands.

As far back as we can remember no member of a mob, engaged in a lynching in the state of Mississippi, has been brought to the courts of justice and convicted.

We've got a sneaking idea though that if a thorough investigation is conducted by "outside" officials that the state can get to the bottom of this ghastly case.

After all it was murder in the highest degree.

Gulfport, Miss. Gulf Coast Guide
April 23, 1937

WITH THE EDITORS

A CHECK through our exchange reveals a deep concern among Mississippi editors over the pending anti-lynching bill and the effect the recent North Mississippi lynching may have on its possible passage:

The Columbus Commercial Dispatch, confident that the Senate will block it, says:

> It is a vicious piece of legislation . . . inspired by prejudice and politics. Northern Democrats are conniving to have the measure passed in the hope of corraling the Northern negro vote. Sectional prejudices are also elements behind the bill. Cheap politics and vicious prejudice.

The McComb Enterprise finds a scapegoat:

> So here's to Winona, Duck Hill and Montgomery county. To you . . . goes the credit of presenting the nation with what is destined to be the Gavagan anti-lynching law. Your hotheadedness caused a reaction in Washington.

The Port Gibson Reveille also places responsibility on the lynchers' doorstep:

> Duck Hill's beastly lynching might hasten the passage of the federal anti-lynching bill. There are always people ready for almost any criminal act, and they require only a shadow of an excuse to perpetrate such blood-thirsty acts as that staged in North Mississippi Tuesday.

The Bay Springs News concludes a subtle rebuke with a caustic emphasis on the futility of mob violence:

> The mob . . . might not know it, but it played right into the hands of a strong bloc at Washington which has for years been advocating an anti-lynching law . . . Torture does not cure evils . . . it only makes fiends of those who engage in it and sears across the participants' minds ghosts that rise to plague until death.

It is The Guide's opinion, however, that the Woodvile Republican goes to the heart of the problem and offers the only solution:

> This horrible deed comes at just the time when it will receive national publicity because of the fight now going on in Congress over the proposed anti-lynching law, and comes as a blow to those who have been proud of Mississippi's record of no lynching in the past year. It is this writer's opinion. . . that this scourge cannot be stopped by federal legislation, but can only be controlled through education.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
May 1, 1937

The Blythe Incident

Lynching is a practice abhorred and detested, for the most part, when considered dispassionately and in the light of clear thinking, but one nonetheless indulged in on occasions when the passions have become so aroused that the means appear to justify the end.

We do not intend to discuss lynchings in general, or do we feel disposed to either condemn or sanction the practice, because we feel that each case must be considered separate and apart from the others. Furthermore, men's consciences must be searched; their innermost thoughts ferreted out and examined before a true answer can be found. We would not presume to set up a bar of judgment in an editorial room and attempt to weigh the conscious thoughts of our fellow man.

But The Chronicle does want to commend the motives which prompted the two citizens to turn over the Blythe Negro to the sheriff Thursday and avert a loathesome spectacle. These men, we are sure, acted with only one thought in mind: that the culprit would be brought to speedy trial; that there would be a minimum in the law's delay, and that punishment would be swift and adequate to repay the defendant for the heinous crime which he is said to have committed.

If the Negro is guilty as charged, no punishment for him is too severe. Fortunately, the law provides the supreme penalty for a rapist. The crime with which he is charged is more horrible than murder; the punishment, death.

The citizens of the Blythe section had every reason to become inflamed and bitter, and their long, patient and arduous search for the culprit is most praiseworthy. But we do not feel they should censure their neighbors whose consciences directed them to give up their prisoner to the sheriff and let sure punishment come in an orderly, lawful manner.

The Negro undoubtedly will be brought to trial speedily in Burke county, and the friends of the offended woman and her family will sit on the jury as his peers and pass judgment on him, and justice, by man-made laws, will prevail.

Indianalo, Miss. Tocsin
April 22, 1937

Listen to the Hitlerites howl about the Duck Hill lynching! It certainly was an awful tirade Germany shot at us last week. Those German minds must be weakening. It hasn't been three years since Hitler ordered his mob to proceed to Munich and Bradenburg and there lynched sixteen eminent Germans, without indictment or trial. The negroes had at least been indicted.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
May 1, 1937

LET THE CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY

CONTEMPORARY COMMENTARY

HALTS A LYNCHING

(FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER)

Whether or not one agrees with the business of putting a man in jail because he has Communistic literature in his pocket, one can hardly suppress a cheer at the action of the United States Supreme Court in reversing what appeared the judicial lynching in Georgia of one Angelo Herndon, a negro Communist.

Herndon found himself facing an 18-year sentence in the jails or road gangs of Georgia not because he violated any sedition law but because he got off his beat, dabbled in something best left to local justice, and in general ran counter to Georgia customs.

The strange thing was that Georgia undertook to lynch Herndon with a law instead of a rope.

And it is also strange that the law invoked by the Georgians in the attempted judicial lynching of Herndon was a law which had been manufactured by the bummers, carpetbaggers and adventurers who followed General Sherman's torch-bearers into Georgia and attempted to establish a state in which the former slave would have his foot forever on his former master's neck while white freebooters from without the State bled it white of what little wealth Sherman's flames had spared.

The sedition law was passed not to oppress the Georgia negroes but to prevent the Georgia white people from assembling in righteous indignation and taking their own government back into their own hands.

In Reconstruction Days the sedition law proved of little value on account of the shadowy method in which the ancient Ku Klux-dealing rather permanently with those who attempt to upset them with a show of legal authority.

It failed to accomplish the overthrow of authority. Georgia customs in Reconstruction Days, and when Georgians used it to protect their customs in more modern times it also failed.

However, even if the United States Supreme Court has held the Georgia sedition law unconstitutional we think yet it would be very unhealthy for Communists, whatever the color of their skin, to invade Georgia with singing and rejoicing.

The law might not be able to put a finger on them, but by the time they got out of Georgia they might wish the law had.

Local customs frequently are more dear to people even than the law, not only in Georgia but all over the country. And all over the country people have a way sometimes of

From B. G. Fairley, of [illegible], Ala., come hot words. "You are always harping about 'let the law take its course' when we have a lynching," he reports. "But how long does it take the law to have its course? The Scottsboro case and a dozen or more I could recall—aren't they the real cause of lynchings. The Scottsboro case is six years old and no one acquitted or convicted and confirmed by the higher courts. The court costs are mounting into thousands. I, too, believe in the law taking its course, but does it? Or will it ever?"

• • •

We refuse to think of Mr. Fairley as one of those who, when they complain of legal delays in the Scottsboro case, mean merely that the negroes should have been hanged long before now. We believe he realizes, as so many are coming to realize, that prejudices which have been injected into this case have made almost impossible an accurate estimate of the facts or a fair verdict on the basis of facts estimated. No one can read the testimony in the case (nauseating, unprintable testimony, some of it) without grave doubt of the guilt of the negroes. This column's personal conviction is that the testimony proves them not guilty at all.

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Mr. Fairley is right in general, we think, that delay in the settlement of legal cases as a result of technicalities and legal ruses is giving American law a bad name and inspiring disregard of it. We agree with him that justice should not be so long delayed. But early or late, it must be justice.

Lynchings - 1937
Discussion

White Press, Southern.

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Danville, Va., Register
August. 12, 1937

ONE LAW

Some weeks ago a critic of our editorial policies complained, "Mr. Editor, you have said so much about racial prejudice, one would almost believe you had prejudice toward your own race." At the time we did not consider it necessary to point out that we harp so constantly on the injustices dealt the Negro because the Negro gets ever so much more than a fair share of injustice. But now that strikers at Covington are being tried for violating what is known as the Virginia "lynch law," we would reply that we try as scrupulously as we can to avoid prejudice against any race, creed, or class.

The objections to trying strikers under Virginia's "lynch law" seem, to us, unfounded. White men who wish to continue their accustomed work in a mill, we think, are entitled to the same protection of the law as that given Negroes charged with grave crimes against the State and with the heinous offense of trying to get their rights. And if the law says "Any and every person composing a mob which shall commit an assault and/or battery or any persons without authority of law shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction, shall be confined in the penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than 10 years," we can see no reason why white men who gang up to do violence to other white men should not be punished just as are white men who gang up to do violence to Negroes.

That is not to say that we consider the offense committed by the strikers at Covington as serious as that committed by a mob which undertakes to lynch a Negro. We have constantly refused to pass judgment on the convictions of the Covington strikers and on the prison terms imposed on the two men who have been convicted by juries of mob violence. We believe that judgment in these cases can only be passed by the courts which hear the evidence and the courts which review the evidence. And if, as has been charged, the sentences imposed on the convicted men were made unduly severe because the jurors were prejudiced against organized labor, we hope and believe that the Supreme Court of Appeals will set aside these sentences as contrary to the law and the evidence. Or if the Supreme Court does not do so and if the defenders of the strikers make a public issue of the cases at the proper time—after they have been duly considered by the courts—and offer convincing evidence that these sentences are unjust, The Register will do its part in arousing public sentiment to urge the Governor to use his final power to deal out justice.

But to argue that a law passed to protect Negroes from mob violence should not be used to protect white men from mob violence is repugnant to our conception of justice, which holds that there should be one law for black and white, rich and poor, strong and weak.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
August 20, 1937

WILL THE LAW PROTECT?

Some mighty good speeches are being made around Tipton, Tenn., and other places just now about apprehending the lynchers and let the law take its course. They are talking about the men who formed a mob and murdered a Negro about to go on trial for murder.

We hope the Tennessee investigation won't prove a failure as miserable as that in Montgomery county six months ago when two negroes were brutally murdered at Duck Hill.

Shouting "To Hell with Law" the mobsters in Covington county, Tenn., tore the accused prisoner from the sheriff and disappeared in the dark of the night. A few hours later the body of the accused was found. He was the victim of a lawless mob, who acted as sheriff, judge, jury and executioner, all without authority and with every contempt for the law they, no doubt, profess to believe in when the law is needed on their side.

Whether these murdereds are to be apprehended and punished remains to be seen. Certainly it is time for a good start in this direction. Leading and law-abiding citizens of the South must exhibit a greate rcourage in enforcing the law—but the greatest weight must be with the courts so that such disgraceful cases as he Scottsboro case are not allowed to prejudice the rank and file against laws because of unnecessary delays.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
September 1, 1937

"It's Up to Us."

Winston-Salem Journal: Many Southerners are opposed to federal anti-lynching legislation. It would constitute an unwarranted interference with law enforcement processes within the states, they declare.

But let us look to the record. Since 1882 a total of 5,100 lynchings have been placed in the big black book to the discredit and the shame of the South. And in 99.2 per cent. of these cases, according to usually reliable authority, the lynchers have escaped punishment!

This being the case, is it any wonder that lynching is so common in the South? And is it any wonder, in view of this record, known to the entire nation, that legislators from other sections are insisting upon a federal anti-lynching law? What to do? The South insists that it doesn't want a federal law against lynching. It wants to handle its own interracial problems. But the trouble is that it has not been handling the lynching problem at all effectively. It has not dealt with the question in conformity with the higher aims of justice.

In recent years, it is true, the South has improved its record with regard to lynchings. But just about the time we are ready to pat ourselves on the back, along comes a mob story that makes us ashamed of ourselves. Such an instance is that which occurred at Covington, Tenn., the other day. A mob lynched a Negro and when the sheriff interfered, shouted "To hell with law!"

It is this "To hell with law" attitude which may force a federal lynch law upon the South.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
July 5, 1937

A ZEAL ABOVE KNOWLEDGE

From the, Bainbridge Post-Searchlight.

Now that the heat of emotionalism has subsided, and our people are going about their daily vocations, it would appear that this is the proper time to administer an anodyne to the editor of The Macon Telegraph, the editor of the Birmingham Age-Herald and others who saw fit to ignorantly criticize the good people of Bainbridge and Decatur county for the overt action several weeks ago when some of our people and many from other states dragged and burned a Negro who had been killed by officers of the law trying to escape. The incident, in fact the whole affair was one which was regretted by all of us, but it was something which could have happened to any municipality and to any county and state. The affair brought criticism to our people from people in every state in the union, but lack of knowledge of the facts in the case caused many of our normally level-headed gentlemen of the press to go off half cocked. The editor of The Macon Telegraph has always appealed to us as being decidedly fair about all matters, but when he unjustly accused the people of Bainbridge and Decatur county of fostering and sponsoring such things, and intimated that we were barbarians, he gave us what is commonly known as a "belly-full." The gentleman is a stickler for law and order, and so are we, but having no knowledge of the affair caused him to make some rather prejudicial statements. Alexander H. Stephens had this to say about people having zeal: "Those people who possess zeal above knowledge we justly dominate fanatics. All fanaticism springs from an aberration of the mind. It is a species of insanity." Now we do not accuse or intimate that our fellow sufferer is a fanatic because he stands for law and order or that he possesses a form of insanity, but in the above matter he possessed a zeal above knowledge which made him jump the gun on the "take-off." If he knew the circumstances, he would, in his forceful and fair manner offer his apologies and continue to utilize his pen for what he believed to be right.

AGAINST LYNCHING

Tennessean Reverses Attitude Of His Early Youth

To The Commercial Appeal:

It was not taught me by my parents, but I grew up like most Southern boys, with a feeling that lynching a negro was not much of a crime, but, under certain circumstances, in order to maintain the standing of true blue southerners, very necessary. Times have changed. I have changed. And today I believe you will find as much revulsion at the thought of lynching a negro among the people of Tipton County as you will find in any other county in the South, or in any other part of the United States. We do not believe in it. The thought is very, very repulsive. But it seems that the old feeling has cropped out among us. It has shown itself for the first time in the memory of the oldest of its citizens.

What shall we do about it? That is the question. Who is able to give the answer? I am not. Most of us say something should be done. Who says what? In talking to the citizens of our county, everyone will agree that something should be done. No one believes anything will be done. I do not. The investigation will be useless. I am not willing, personally, to try to make it anything else. No one else is. A deplorable condition, you say. You are right, but what are you going to do about it? Nothing.

It seems to me that the only answer is a Federal law against lynching. It seems that among all

the peoples of the earth, our southern senators and congressmen should support the passage of such a law. When lynchers are probably some of your friends, or might be some of your own household, what can you do about it? Occasionally, but very, very rarely, has it ever happened that justice has come to one of our best friends or a close relative, if the meting out of that justice depended on us. Most of that kind of work is in the story books. Then, for the sake of justice, law and order and everything else that makes our country a good place in which to live, let us have a Federal law against lynching.

EARL HILL.

Brighton, Tenn.

LYNCHING

Ben Cothran hits a mighty nail on the head in the October issue of The Forum with his article "Ousting Judge Lynch." More and more of us in this part of the country if not elsewhere are coming to see that the social and racial problems of the South have an economic base and can effectively be attacked only at that base. Mr. Cothran believes, and this column agrees with him, that lynching is a result of the competitive poverty in which the mass of Southern whites and Southern blacks still lives. What he fails to make clear, however, is that the great decline in the annual number of lynchings in the South parallels an improvement in the economic and social position of both whites and blacks and a promise of far greater improvement as a result of educational, financial and social aids now given or planned.

In other words, we do not agree with Mr. Cothran's notion that it will need 50 years to remedy the economic situation which produces lynchings in the South. We believe the situation is already being improved and is promised a continual more of improvement, and that the declining number of lynchings each year is an indication of the improvement. Federal laws can't stop lynchings, it is true, but Federal aids and cooperation in the task of improving the educational and economic status of impoverished whites and blacks can—and are.—John Temple Graves in The Birmingham Age-Herald.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
October 5, 1937

Florida Has Lynching

THE state of Florida and the South are humiliated by the outrageous display of the mob spirit in the Flower State Monday when a Negro desperado was taken by a comparatively small mob and murdered. He was charged with robbing and slaying of white youth.

There is nothing to be said in defense of the Negro's crime. It was diabolical, no doubt, and should have been punished with the law's supreme penalty. There is nothing to be said in mitigation of the additional crime of lynching. When a group of law breakers takes the law into their hands and tramples it under foot, they bring shame and disgrace upon their community and their neighbors.

In this enlightened age there is no excuse for mob violence. Better that good citizens refrain from dodging jury service and do their duty in behalf of law and order.

The sheriff of Santa Rosa County and a deputy were en route to jail with the Negro accused of the murder, when a comparatively small mob met them and took the Negro from them. Apparently the mob proceeded with little resistance from the sheriff and his deputy. Both seem to have violated the solemn oath that they took when assuming their responsible duties. If the laws of Florida would hold the officers personally responsible and punish them accordingly, it might prove to be a wholesome object lesson. No sheriff or other responsible officer who permits a mob to take a prisoner from them without any show of resistance, is worthy to hold office and should be forthwith and immediately discharged.

Military observers find that Japan has been greatly overrated as a military power and is no longer entitled to rating as first class power. The Free Press has already commented on an article appearing in an issue of the Readers Digest several months ago in which the point was made that Japan had never been called upon to meet face to face a first class power on the field of battle and that when she was the impression that she had acquired super power in the realm of arms would be exploded. The failure of her arms to dislodge the Chinese defenders at Shanghai after weeks of the bitterest fighting, would seem to sustain the views that Japan is not so much to be dreaded as the common impression has had it.

Wilmington, N. C. News
October 5, 1937

The Latest Lynching and a Warning

The latest lynching, Florida variety brings the usual notation by the coroner of "death at the hands of parties unknown." That was expected. The nature of the victim's alleged crime would be sufficient to convince any one familiar with the south that such would be his fate unless the law stretched out to protect him until courts could exact justice in its orderly form.

Seemingly, though, there was one man who missed that quite obvious reaction, and he unfortunately was the one man upon whom the negro's life depended. He was the sheriff.

So alone and unguarded the sheriff started to a jail some miles away with his prisoner, was overpowered and recognized no member of the tiny mob of four.

The News abhors lynching, regardless of the victim. It looks upon lynching as an insult and challenge to the constituted authority of the state. It looks with disfavor too upon the repeated efforts of the national congress to bring such offenses under the federal, instead of the estate governments, but concedes that passage of this law is inevitable unless sheriffs as a whole bring themselves to a far greater degree of alertness.

Lynching can be prevented. There is no argument on that point whatever. The News has seen lynchings prevented, and the sole requisite was quick thinking on the part of officers.

North Carolina, we believe, has perhaps the most enviable record of any state of the south in this respect, and the work of officers in this state convinces us that it can be matched by other southern states, if it is genuinely desired that lynching be eliminated.

It is the sole way to avoid the obnoxious law that congress will very probably soon pass on the subject.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
October 6, 1937

The Hooded Lynchers

Many observers see in the tumultuous controversy over the appointment of Hugo L. Black to the Supreme Court bench the most beneficial piece of unsolicited publicity ever to fall into the lap of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Klan's business is booming now. A keener interest is being taken in secret doing of the hooded order, and its leaders expect a bumper crop of neophytes to swell the organization's ranks. Never since the days when the night riders chased down carpet-baggers and scalawags has the light of publicity been focused so brightly on the Klan's activities.

But the darker, more unpleasant side of the picture is to be found in Florida. Here violent men traded on the recent notoriety given the Ku Klux Klan, donned black hoods and forcibly took a Negro prisoner away from a sheriff and his deputy. The Negro, charged with criminally attacking a twelve-year-old white boy and robbing a filling station, was riddled with bullets from the lynchers' guns.

Governor Fred P. Cone ordered an immediate investigation. State Attorney E. Dixie Beggs Jr., said "we are doing all we can to solve this thing." The investigation will amount to nought; the state attorney will not "solve" the lynching. Incidents of this kind, we all know, are never solved. The investigations are too cursory to bear results.

Klan members wear white hoods. These men adorned themselves with black hoods, so it would seem that the Black-Klan dispute gave them an idea when they hatched their violent plans for the lynching. The power of suggestion is indeed remarkable.

SOUTHERN CATECHISM

Lest the public forget the customary procedure in a lynching, the Daily News offers a catechism in brief on the mobbery this week in Milton, Fla. From a long history of such events one should know the answers long before they happen.

Was the victim charged with a serious crime?

Yes. This is considered almost always essential to a *bona fide* lynching.

Did the sheriff (Joe Allen, on this occasion) have any warning of high feeling in the community against his prisoner?

Yes. He had previously transported him to a safer jail.

Did he follow this up with a sufficient guard to guarantee the prisoner's safety while being transported to place of trial?

A sheriff and one deputy were considered sufficient.

What steps were necessary to get the victim away from his official escort?

Nothing but the demand, "We want that nigger," as was told in the dispatches.

Did the officers show any resistance?

None was recorded.

Did they recognize any members of the mob?

This is never done.

Did the coroner's jury make an investigation?

Certainly.

Did it uncover any evidence pertaining to identity of the mobsters or recommend any indictments?

Don't be silly.

Did the governor of the state promise an investigation?

Of course, that is considered the usual thing to do.

Does anyone expect anything to come of this?

Ha, ha, ha!

Oct. 6, 1937

Lynchings - 1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5539

Winona, Miss. Times
April 16, 1937

Mob Violence

All law abiding citizens regret the dual lynching which took place in Montgomery County six miles northeast of Duck Hill Tuesday afternoon. Whether the negroes deserved the brutal death which was dealt out to them is not a question which we want to enter an argument for or against. Although the mob was quiet, well organized and got the negroes with the quickest action that can be imagined without any demonstration, taking the Sheriff and his deputies completely by surprise, it would have been better from many angles could the mob have been prevailed to let the law take its course.

The crime with which the two negroes were charged was one of the most horrible in the history of the county. Townes in his written confession stated the crime was planned several months before it was executed. He stated that they shot Windham in the back and robbed him. They deserved the full penalty of the law for such a cowardly crime and would have been given it had the law been allowed to take its course.

The lynching here Tuesday is having a very far reaching effect upon the nation. When the lynching was taking place here, a debate upon the anti-lynching law was in progress at the National capitol in Washington. Many feel that the dual lynching of the two negroes Tuesday will have direct affect upon the passage of this bill. Governor White had just proudly proclaimed in an address Tuesday afternoon that it had been fifteen months since Mississippi had had a lynching, when the message concerning the lynching here was brought to him.

The Times wants to congratulate Sheriff Wright and his corps of officers in their unrelenting search for this negro, Roosevelt Townes. It is not infrequently the case, when a person commits a crime and is apparently out of the way, officers get so busy with the many demands made upon them, by people at hand, that they fail to keep after criminals who have moved on. Such was not the case in this instance. There was not a week that Mr. Wright did not make a trip some where on a lead or tip regarding this negro. The Sheriff was anxious to see justice done. He and his deputies had left no stone unturned in their effort to catch the perpetrators of this crime, even to the extent of spending some of their personal funds for the purpose. We could not ask a greater expenditure of effort and time nor a higher regard for duty that has been shown in this case by our peace officers.

St. George, S. C., Eagle
April 22, 1937

UNSAFE LEADERSHIP

The statement of Mitchell, the Negro Congressman, that 14,000,000 Negroes in the United States live in fear of their lives, should prove to the Southern Negro that he nor any other so-called Negro leader in the North is capable of wise leadership.

No law-abiding Negro in the South is in danger of losing his life at the hands of a mob, nor has he anything to fear from his white neighbors. It is only the lawless individuals of this race who need fear mob violence, and these are few, compared with the large number of white law-breakers.

Southern Negroes have suffered much at the hands of their Northern friends. They are acquiring intelligence and wisdom, and many of them know what is for the best interests of their race. They realize that extravagant statements by Mitchell and other politicians of both races in the North have a very bad effect on their relations with their neighbors.

No federal anti-lynching bill will ever improve these relations, but will be an added handicap. The better class of Negro is seldom the victim of a mob; nor is the better class of white man ever a member of a mob. They are both from the least intelligent classes.

Albany, Ga., Herald
April 23, 1937

THERE ARE A FEW OF THESE LEFT.

Jacksonville, Fla.,
April 21, 1937.

People's Forum,
Albany Herald,
Albany, Ga.
The Editor:

I frequently come to Albany, Macon and Atlanta. I have heard you spoken of as a "liberal," tolerant, etc.

Then, where does your editorial comment come in, on that dastardly double-lynching in Mississippi, recently? Did you lift your little finger in protest? O, no! You might offend some Confederate pride, smug and satisfied. Nor are you different from the rest of the South's papers, EXCEPT Virginius Dabney's paper in Richmond. Thank God, there is one man in the South Christian and brave enough to acknowledge that Negroes have lives to live. The sheriff and his 2 aides in broad daylight, grabbed by the mob, didn't see a single face. Now, who is stupid enough to believe that? If the governor of Mississippi does ANYTHING about it except talk and "investigate" I'll be glad to buy you and him a new suit.

This is just one more reason why REAL Christians hope the Gavagan bill goes thru. Except for the Oklahoma delegation, the Southern "congressmen" voted nay. Nay for what? Nay to punish fiends for acts they'd be hung for, in more civilized spots.

I am on my way back North, thank God. Having been in Georgia and Florida since that awful medieval torture, not one single reference have I heard to it; you people just don't care. If you did, you'd bombard that governor until he acted.

I am mighty anxious to buy you that suit. I have instructed Albany friends to let me know. And when you protest to the Mississippi governor, tell him to select a nice one—not under $60.

JACK AMES.

P. S. It'd be all the same if it happened in Georgia.

The flopping of the long ears of the writer of the foregoing is distinctly audible. The name signed to his letter may or may not be his real name. We suspect that it is not, but we do not know.

What we do know is that his kind add tremendously to the difficulty which Northern and Southern people encounter wherever and whenever they seek to destroy the residue of sectionalism which hangs over from Civil War and Reconstruction days.

Intelligent Northern and Southern people who are sincerely patriotic—who seek the advancement of "a nation not divided"—deplore the fetid mouthings of unintelligent tom-tom beaters North and South "who know not, and know not that they know not," yet are perfectly willing to tell the nation how to save itself.

This newspaper has condemned lynch law and the mob spirit consistently. It commented on the very editorial in the Richmond Times-Dispatch to which the writer of the above letter refers, and reproduced the comment of the New York Herald-Tribune on the significance of the Richmond paper's stand. In commenting on the recent double lynching in Mississippi, we stated that it was the work of men too ignorant to realize the heinousness of their crime, or to realize that another anti-lynching bill which Congress is considering had its chances of passage materially boosted by publication of the gruesome story from Mississippi.

Public Enemy No. 1 in this republic is ignorance. Some of the ignoramuses take the law into their own hands. Others write letters of which the above is a shining example—an example of what survives of sectional bigotry. Our excuse for printing it is its value as incentive to those who realize that honest citizenship cannot ignore its own responsibility to law and order—to government "of the people, by the people, for the people." For when honest citizenship fails, the cranks and the nitwits get their chance.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
April 19, 1937

Mississippi's Blow-Torches.

Beasts, in man's image, with blow-torches executed a double lynching in Mississippi; two negroes being dispatched by mobsters with torture methods that make the expert torturers of Spain's inquisition and red Russia's more recent revolution appear pikers.

It remains to be seen what the state of Mississippi will do toward apprehension and punishment of the mobmen; especially in the way of supplying proof that a federal anti-lynching law is not needed. It now appears that Mississippi's blow-torches, figuratively, will blow the Gavagan (anti-lynching) bill speedily to enactment in Congress.

The Gavagan bill (H. R. 1507), adopted in the house Thursday over opposition of 100 southern Democrats, was introduced by Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, of New York, a lawyer first elected to the house in 1928. His district includes Harlem, largest center of negro population in the United States. In his campaign this gentleman found it necessary to advocate action and promise to do all he could toward securing passage of an anti-lynching law.

Some other Democrats standing for re-election to Congress, found the issue pressing and had to declare themselves—for political reasons. The swing away from the Republican party of negro voters was a potent influence. The only negro congressman, Arthur Mitchell, of Chicago, who defeated the other negro representative, Oscar DePriest, put in a bill at the beginning of this session, as did many other members in fulfillment of campaign promises. Such legislation is urged by many organizations devoted to negro welfare, and for the promotion of law and order.

The Gavagan bill may find more determined opposition in the senate than it did in the house. Senator Borah, for instance, denounces it as unconstitutional, unjust and unmoral. The bill promises to punish local officers and counties whenever mob rule interferes with the orderly processes of law. There are, of course, laws already in all of the states making lynching a crime. As pointed out in debate, the Gavagan bill would apply only in case the victim of a lynching has been taken by a mob from the custody of an officer of the law. It would not operate to prevent or to penalize lynchings in cases in which mobs got ahead of the law, as it were. Some of the representatives, arguing that the problem should be left to the states to solve, point to Virginia as an example of a southern state in which enactment of a drastic anti-lynching law has led to extinction of lynching over a period of years.

Proponents of the bill say it would not encroach upon state rights; since the states would be left free to maintain law and order and the penalties of the proposed measure would be applied only when the states were derelict. On the other hand there are many who contend that the Gavagan law would constitute another long step toward vesting in the central government powers formerly supposed, and without challenge, to rest in the states.

It appears now that state sovereignty stands to lose in this instance. The Mississippi torture lynchings made votes for the Gavagan bill in the house; and it appears that they will do likewise in the senate.

The trend seems to be toward more power in Washington; less in the state capitals.

One day, perhaps, the sovereign states will be reduced to the status of provinces, with virtually all power resting in the central government. The signs point that way.

Macon, Ga., News
May 3, 1937

Avoiding Mob Law

Two Burke county farmers who were quick-witted enough to save a Negro from lynch law last week are entitled to the commendation of the whole state of Georgia.

It is true that the Negro was charged with an attack upon a white woman sometime ago, and this is the crime which has been so often regarded in the past as justification for mob violence. But even the women of Georgia deplore mob violence for any reason and are glad that the state has escaped this possible stigma.

The Negro at first made his escape after committing the crime. Later he was recognized as working on a road gang in Burke county.

When the news of his identification got abroad it was feared, with some reason perhaps, that he would be lynched. Rumors that a mob was forming were heard by the two level-headed farmers in question.

They took the Negro in an automobile and rode around the county until they could get in touch with the sheriff of Burke county who appointed a meeting place and took over the prisoner, who was rushed to the Chatham county jail for safe keeping. His case will go before the grand jury of Burke county on May 10.

There is no reason to apprehend that the trial will be long-drawn out, if the facts clearly establish his guilt and May 10 is not far away. Surely it is far better to have waited for the law to take its course than to add another blot of barbarism to the state, where the record as to lynching is far better than it used to be.

Let us hope the time is not far distant when mob violence will end for ever.

Brandon, Miss. News
April 22, 1937

Lynch Bill Fight In Senate

THE expected and predicted came to pass last Thursday when the House, by a majority of more than two to one, passed the vicious and drastic anti-lynching bill making lynching a federal offense, providing heavy fines and penitentiary sentences for sheriffs losing prisoners and for mob members, and fining the counties in which lynchings occur up to $5,000 for the benefit of the victim's family.

The Montgomery county double lynching and torture is given "credit" the nation over for piling up this heavy majority for this bill,—even as Mississippi papers predicted it would the day after the lynching.

The South's hope of defeating this vicious bill, which is aimed at the South exclusively, now lies in the Senate, with the Supreme Court a last resort if the bill passes the Senate.

The fight in the Senate will be close, but perhaps our Southern senators will be aided by then by some abatement of the passions stirred by the Montgomery county crime. Our Senators, however, face a hard job, one that will require all their parliamentary skill, perseverance, and determination.

They can be depended on to do their utmost. Meantime, all of us can but hope for the best. Perhaps Senator Harrison will be able to duplicate his past feats in killing this bill. And it is one matter in which both Mississippi senators should co-operate closely without thought of past or personal differences.

Indianalo, Miss. Tocsin
April 22, 1937

Just Saving The Cos.s of Court

Mississippi had a lynching last week when two negroes were lynched by a mob of infuriated citizens over at Duck Hill. The two negroes brutally murdered a store keeper last December and were caught only a few weeks ago.

As usual when there is a lynching there is a lot of sympathy wasted on the victims of the mob, and none at all on the one or ones who who were murdered. Petitions have gone forth to Governor White, along with numerous resolutions condemning the action of the mob and sympathizing with the mob victims.

We do not condone lynchings, but if two persons ever deserved lynching the two brutes at Duck Hill richly deserve what they got. We have no sympathy to waste on them None whatever.

Nothing will ever come of any investigation the Governor or anybody else will make, and not one member of the mob will ever be arrested. Even should some arrests be made there is not a jury in Mississippi that would ever convict any mob member. That is a fact and everyone knows it.

If our different societies in Mississippi really want to do a real service they can best do it by stopping all this sentimental gushing over the mob execution of two brutes, and have some real sympathy for the man they so cruelly murdered. They can render a help by trying to get our courts speeded up and cutting out so many loopholes through which criminals escape proper punishment for their crimes. It is those things that are responsible for lynchings, and until a cure is found lynchings will continue to occur.

Lynchings-1937
& Discussions

White Press, Southern.

5540

Winona, Miss. Times
April 23, 1937

The Lynching of Two Negroes

The lynching of two negroes in this county Tuesday of last week, has brought about the usual condemnation from some out-of-state newspapers, statesmen (?) and cranks.

Of course no law abiding Mississippian condones, or endorses, lynching.

We much prefer that the negroes had been hung according to law.

However, those who live in glass houses should not throw stones—occasionally Mississippians will hang a negro for committing some atrocious crime—this was the first lynching in Mississippi in fifteen months. But, when a lynching occurs in this state the guilty is punished and that ends the matter—the white people do not kill every negro they can find as was done a few years ago in the St. Louis negro massacre.

Yes, occasionally Mississippi has a lynching—but Mississippi does not have organized gangs of law violators—the kind that not only kill, but blow a man's place of business up if he does not accede to their unlawful demands. Is lynching any worse than that kind of crime? No. The organized crime gangsters kill hundreds and destroy millions in wealth to every lynching that occurs in Mississippi.

When a negro runs amuck and shoots down a white man in cold blood in order to rob him, feeling will run high and in some instances a lynching will follow.

As we stated in the beginning we do not condone lynching, and prefer that such criminals be dealt with orderly and lawfully hung, but we are unable to distinguish any particular difference between the Chicago gangland murderer and a Mississippi lynching party.

The Chicago Tribune might turn this over in its mind before it turns loose a broadside on Mississippi.

At the time this article is written an anti-lynching bill has passed the House of Representative of Congress. The occurrence in this county, some claim, assisted the passage of the bill—we doubt it. We do not believe the Senate will pass the bill, but properly kill it as they have defeated other similar bills of this nature, in the past. However, if the law is passed this is not going to stop lynchings—laws have not stopped murder—laws have not stopped kidnapping—laws have not stopped bootlegging of whiskey. We do not need more laws—we need quick enforcement of the laws we have. We need more confidence in our laws being administered speedily to the law violator of major crimes. When the laws are administered without fear or favor and respect of law taught in our schools a new day will dawn throughout the Nation for respect of the law.

The laws of the land have been violated in so many ways that there remains very little consideration for the laws.

Doubtless, if those who composed the lynching party had felt confident that these two negroes would have been speedily hung for this cold-blooded murder, and that no detours of justice would occur as has happened in many cases throughout the Nation, then the lynching would not have occurred. What we are trying to get over is that a condition exists that must be considered and corrected to bring about more confidence in the law, instead of needing more laws to correct the condition.

There has been much said and written about the lynching here last week, but a very faint picture has been presented of the horrible, cold-blooded murder the negroes committed that led up to the lynching. Such crimes cause men to lose their better judgment as they did in this instance.

What could be a more gruesome, cruel, cold-blooded, unwarranted, premeditated crime than to shoot a man through a window in the back without warning, and then rob him while laying on a floor breathing his last breaths. This is the kind of a crime that Roosevelt Townes and Boot Jack McDaniels, negroes, committeed. The man they killed was a high type citizen, and had befriended the negroes that killed him.

Governor White made the statement a few hours before the lynching in this county last Tuesday that there had not been a lynching in Mississippi in fifteen months. When negroes do not commit atrocious crime and obey the laws no lynchings occur. The reason for negro lynchings in Mississippi is due to the negroes committing some outrageous crime.

At the time the lynching of the two negroes occurred in this county there was an audience assembled in the High School auditorium in Jackson, Mississippi, composed of white and black to listen to an address by Dr. George Washington Carver, negro, director of chemical research and experiments stations, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. He was one of the speakers on the program of the Mississippi Farm Chemurgy Conference held in Jackson last week.

We mention this to show that there is no general feeling between the whites and blacks in Mississippi. The law abiding negro has the same protection under the laws—he enjoys the same peace and happiness the white man has if he obeys the laws of the land and conducts himself as a good citizen should.

The relationship between the leading and law abiding negroes of Mississippi, and the leading and law abiding white citizenry of Mississippi is, in our opinion more amicable and more satisfactory today than in years past. Negroes of Mississippi understand the white citizens and the white people understand the negroes, and they can settle their differences and solve their problems a great deal better and quicker if left to them. They are able to handle their own problems and do not need interference or advice of any outside ignorant, uninformed trouble-maker, who probably intends well and plays hell.—W. W.

Cleveland, Miss. Commercial
April 23, 1937

On Fighting Lynching

The recent lynching at Dack Hill, whhich must be admitted by all thinking people to have been revolting in every detail and thoroughly deplorable, seems to have precipated the passage by the House of Representatives of another anti-lynching bill, similar to other bills which have been brought up in the national Congress from time to time. Just what the fate of this bill will be in the Senate is problematical, but in that body there is still available the right to stage a filibuster, a weapon which has been resorted to more than once by Southern Senators.

However that may be, it is clearly recognized that the South can not always rely upon the filibuster to prevent the passage of such laws, and it is just as clear that we can not sit idly by and assume that nothing can be done about lynching.

We do not mean by that statement to be understood as favoring the recent bill, known as the Gavagan bill. We see in it many injustices, and little

Another provision of the bill levies a heavy fine on a county in which a lynching occurs. This is done evidently on the assumption that the whole county is to blame. Ignoring the fact that it may be doubtful whether it is constitutional for one branch of our national government to levy a fine on another branch, there is certainly little justice in it. This writer has never participated in a lynching or approved of one, but several times he has lived in counties where they occurred—and there was never anything he could do about it. He does not feel that he should be taxed to pay a penalty for a crime some one else committed. Then, too, if it is the fault of a county if a lynching occurs within its boundaries, why is it not as much the fault of the state or the federal government? And why should the county be fined and the other branches go free?

* * * * *

Further than that, the punishment of a mob is a very difficult matter. It is practically never done quietly that it was not generally known until some time later. How could Mr. Smith be blamed for that? He protected the prisoner he had in our own county a lynching occurs, fine or imprisonment or both. As we have had no opportunity to study the bill, we can not refer with accuracy to the details of its provisions, but we know that the sheriff of a county is not always to blame nor means to protect the one who was lynched.

And the South has no monopoly on mobs. Their work

A case in point, let us cite a happening some years ago, during the first administration of the present sheriff, Mr. J. L. Smith. A negro was on trial for his life in Cleveland, the charge being murder. There had been some talk of a lynching, and Mr. Smith took every precaution possible to prevent it. He concentrated here every deputy and appointed others. He permitted no congregating on the court house grounds, and guarded carefully the passage way from the jail to the court house during the trial. While that was happening here, however—and the precautions were very effective—another negro committed some crime in the First Judicial District, was caught and lynched very quietly that it was not generally

may be a little different in this part of the country, but they are essentially the same as other mobs in other parts of the country. Sit-down strikes, mine wars, union shootings, gangster activities and the like are mob actions, pure and simple, and the result of these is often fatal to one or more people. And wherever these occur, few if any people are punished.

* * * * *

The only effective way, in our opinion, to handle mob violence is to attempt to prevent it long in advance of the provocation. Publicity and education can help, and we need both. Lawyers and the courts can help, for the delay of orderly justice is often a provocation to the mob. And the encouragement to sobriety is an important factor: for many crimes causing lynchings are committed by drunks or dopers, and many mobs (most, in fact) are made up of men who first pass the bottle around to bolster up their "courage."

The matter of publicity and education should not be confined solely to those who might at some time participate in mob action, although it is important to convince the public that such action is both unnecessary and unwise. But it is also imperative that the negroes themselves, through their same leaders, recognize the fact that there are trouble makers among them who are actively and openly inciting them to crimes which bring on lynching. The negro crime rate is high, not so much against white people as against members of their own race, and if the negroes of America will make an active effort to reduce crime between negroes, crime between the races will automatically be reduced.

* * * * *

We do not know to-day of a single white publication which is seeking to prejudice whites against negroes, but there are quite a few, some run by whites and some by negros, which are constantly attempting to make the negro hate the white man. This is bad, and is a condition which ought to be frowned on by the thinking negroes over the land.

The law's delay frequently incites the mob. The law is simply the orderly, passionless action of the people, and if it is flouted and justice miscarries on account of the rascality of some lawyer or official who is more anxious to win a fight than to see justice done, there is at least more excuse for mob action than there should have been. We note that Clarence Darrow, who has probably set as many guilty criminals free as any other American lawyer, condemns lynching. But if he had set a better legal example, there would not be so much encouragement for crime in the country. The people sometimes assume powers which they have previously delegated to others who have since abused those powers.

* * * * *

And, finally, we note that it has become a habit for those who have been most active in providing alcoholic liquor for the masses to decry the loudest the crimes which are the natural consequence of its consumption. Nobody is harder on the drunken driver than the men who dispense or sell liquor. They raise a loud clamor, primarily as a smoke screen to hide their contributory guilt. The same is true of the violent foes of lynching. They have put the bottle to their neighbor's lips, but they wish to divert from themselves at least part of the woe that is laid up for them in the Scriptural warning.

* * * * *

Crimes don't "just happen"—they have causes, and the causes must be removed or reduced before the crimes can be curbed.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 20, 1937

IT SEEMS TO ME

By HEYWOOD BROUN

THERE must be some immediate answer to the atrocity of Duck Hill. If I were a member of the House I would vote eagerly for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. And yet I must admit that I have less than full faith in the complete efficiency of this measure and that I also regret that the contest has been channeled into sectional lines.

Lynching is a national problem, and every effort should be made to convince all communities that they share a joint responsibility. It is true that from time to time Northern statesmen and publicists have indicated a certain sympathy with what is sometimes called "the good old American vigilante tradition." That is the beginning of heresy and the road to the most abominable kind of happenings.

I am willing to admit a difference in degree between confessions obtained at the end of a rubber hose or by a gasoline torch. But I must insist that I can hardly respect the intellectual integrity of those who are willing to accept torture in a New York police station and at the same time be completely horrified by mad cruelty in some Southern cornfield.

* * *

PROBLEM OF NATIONAL SCOPE

And so I say that both are wrong, horribly and eternally wrong, and that the movement for a decent kind of justice ought to enlist the full support of all Americans.

I have no particular desire to attempt a sneakup on Southern sensibilities. The crime of Duck Hill tosses out of the picture some of the favorite arguments of those who have minimized the crime of lynching when associated with racial conflicts. It used to be said that what was called "mob violence" by Northern publicists was actually an attempt to protect Southern womanhood and that due process of law could not be relied upon when the victim of an attack was forced to face the ordeal of giving testimony in open court.

But Duck Hill has nothing on earth to do with American womanhood. A storekeeper was robbed and murdered. I have no means of knowing whether the mob killed guilty men or not. No issue could be raised as to the speed or certainty of punshment along strictly legal lines. Two accused men were already in custody, the date of their trial had been set, and it is not usual for Southern white juries to lean over backward in acquitting Negro defendants when any reasonable case has been built up against them.

And yet there is some truth in the cry of many Southern Congressmen that the Gavagan bill has the political impetus of a Democratic desire to solidify gains among Negro workers in the industrial cities of the North. Tammany representatives have hardly justified their exploitation of the Negro in the big cities by warmly supporting an anti-lynching bill.

* * *

NOT A SECTIONAL FIGHT

And whether there is any merit at all in the clamor that there is carpet-bagger legislation once again, an effort should be made to rid necessary political action of the stigma of sectionalism. If I am asked what practical device could be adopted to bring this condition around I can only say that I think the most effective anti-lynching bill would be one devised, written and passed by Southern Representatives themselves.

If I am told that this is too much to be asked and that no achievement of that sort is possible I can at least point to one man in the House who has risen completely above his local political interests. I refer, of course, to Maury Maverick, of Texas.

* * *

THE COURAGE OF MAVERICK

Mr. Maverick is probably taking his political life in his hands by voting for the Gavagan bill. I assume that he does not like its provisions in all respects, but he is strongly actuated by the feeling that in addition to representing his own community he is a spokesman for the nation as a whole. And in that role he has spoken fearlessly.

It is hardly a secret that in spite of the victory of the Gavagan bill in the House it faces a hard road and a possible filibuster in the Senate. My practical suggestion is that Maury Maverick might well call a conference of Southern Congressmen to introduce adequate legislation to end lynching. I even think that they would be justified in asking some of the third degree exponents from New York to sit in with them. When we go out to end lynching let us end it in all its phases and in all quarters of our nation.

THE BETTER WAY

Burke county has demonstrated the best way in which lynching may be stamped out.

On April 26 a negro in Burke county assaulted a white woman. A short time after the crime he was captured by an enraged mob. The stage was set for another lynching. Two Burke county farmers, however, rescued the man from his captors. The negro was lodged in jail. The names of his rescuers should forever be inscribed in the honor rolls of their state and county.

On Monday, only two weeks after the crime, the negro was indicted and tried in Waynesboro. Proper guard was provided, the negro pleaded guilty, the jury found him guilty in five minutes, he was sentenced to die in the electric chair and the entire trial was completed in 40 minutes.

Thus Burke county has avoided a blot upon her own escutcheon and upon the good name of Georgia. She has seen that justice, prompt and inviolable, has been enacted upon the perpetrator of a foul crime and at the same time she has upheld in dignity and integrity the law and the courts of the state.

Gradually the lyncher is being eradicated from America. Each year the record improves. With such people as the good citizens of Burke county setting the example, there is hope that the day is not far distant when the rope of the lyncher will be as strange in modern life as is the stake of the Salem witchburner.

Legal technicality and the law's delays have been, in the past, the stock excuse of the mob. Prompt administration of legal justice, as in Burke county, will take away the last argument from those so benighted as to attempt to defend mass outrage.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5541

MOBS IN NORTH AND SOUTH

The Tuskegee Institute issues a report upon lynching that there were only four during the half year, one each in Georgia and Alabama and two in Mississippi. This is two less than for the previous six months.

This decrease is most gratifying, and it is unfortunate that a similar decrease in lynching in portions of the country outside of the South is not revealed. Instead of lynch law decreasing elsewhere, however, it has increased at an almost unprecedented rate, especially in the industrial regions of the North and central West.

It may clarify understanding upon this subject to give the oficial definition of "lynch," this definition being "to inflict punishment upon or kill without the forms of law, as by mob or any unauthorized persons."

Thus, while there have been but four lynchings recorded in the South during the past six months, there have been literally hundreds in such places as Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Johnstown, Warren and other industrial centers. Yet in the face of this transparent fact, the pending anti-lynch bill in Congress specifically exempts the lynchers of the North from its provisions and includes only those of the oSuth.

Mob law is deplorable regardless of where it breaks out, but it is even more deplorable when one form of mob law is condoned or regarded lightly while another form is delt with in vigorous and proper manner. The South is alert to the perils of mob violence and it is high time that the North became equally alert, for mob violence in that quarter is even worse than in the South because it constitutes a sinister attack upon the government itself.—Gadsden Times.

Cone Was Correct

Florida's Governor Fred P. Cone was right when he said this week's double lynching at Tallahassee "looks like a lot of carelessness by somebody."

He said the deaths of the two Negro victims were "murder, not lynching." Every lynching ought to be subjected to the same investigation and court procedure as murder. But every one is not.

Lest some of the newspapers and some of the individuals who have criticized The Telegraph in the past for its attitude on lynchings still misunderstand: There is no doubt that many men who are lynched deserve the punishment of death as long as capital punishment stands on the statute books. There is no doubt that delays, uncertainties and the possibilities of legal wrangling in the courts impel some persons to try to take justice into their own hands.

But every lynching weakens authorized law. Many lynchings involve the risk of punishing an innocent man. If the reliability of justice in trial by jury is so doubtful that the public can't depend on it in crucial cases, it's not worth having in ordinary cases and the whole jury trial system might as well be discarded.

Who wants that?

Under strict administration of justice in the courts the guilty and the innocent would be served far better than by mob rule. And if lynchers took as keen an interest in jury service, in seeing that delays and legally technical maneuvers are eliminated, as they do in forming mobs and storming jails, justice would be done in court.

In the Tallahassee case, the fact is that the lynchers probably thought their victims would not get the death sentence in court—if one credits them for thinking of anything beyond the murder thrill of killing. But giving them the benefit of the doubt, they may have believed the two Negroes deserved killing because they stabbed a policeman. The policeman was living when the lynching occurred, and certainly the Negroes would not have been given the death sentence in court had they been tried at that moment.

The Telegraph does not concede that so severe a penalty as death was warranted. But if it was, the law should be amended to cover such cases. Seriously, no majority of voters would favor any such amendment. Then why should a comparatively small group of men in a mob undertake to administer a punishment that the public would not enact into law?

THIS MORNING

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES II.

Constitution

"One to destroy is murder by the law,
And gibbets keep the lifted hand in awe."

"This is murder, not lynching," Governor Cone, of Florida, said when told last week of the masked four men who had taken two negroes from a Tallahassee jail and shot them to death. It is a distinction without a difference, and we wonder that any seems to exist in the Governor's mind. Lynching is always murder, and it is important to have it recognized and named. The laws and the dictionaries agree that murder is "the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought, expressed or implied." Those who participate in lynchings are parties to intentional and unlawful homicide. They are murderers, and they should be called by their right name.

7-26-37

Never having participated in a lynching we do not know how a lyncher feels, but we imagine that being called a murderer would shock him considerably. That is why it is important to call him a murderer, and treat him as a murderer. It is a simpler and an older word.

Atlanta, Ga.

Also it is a word more sound in origin. The word "lynch" gets its name from the Charles Lynch who was a Virginia justice of the peace during the War of the American Revolution and who would occasionally string Tories up by their thumbs until they consented to shout "Liberty Forever!" Charles Lynch went in to this extent for extra-legal practices, but he never murdered anybody in his whole life and he does not really deserve to have his name associated as it is today with this or any other department of murder. It is as unfair to his memory as it is flattering to the murderer.

In the same psychology it would seem a mistake to dignify the self-anointed ones who occasionally take a fellow creature out and beat him up with the name of "floggers." Since they are guilty of felonious assault and that is a crime, they are criminals—no matter how high or low their estate.

Noting recent comment here upon the great burden of patriotism, free-thinking and social-mindedness which "freedom of the press" imposes upon the newspaper publishers to whom it is entrusted, our friend Aubrey Harwell calls our attention to the manner in which one particular publisher is serving the trust. This publisher is Curtis B. Johnson, of The Charlotte Observer, who has dreamed and labored many years for a means of serving the youth of North Carolina in body, mind and heart, and who was able to announce last week the opening of a great fresh air camp near Charlotte, financially underwritten by himself, which promises health, recreation, inspiration and noble development to hundreds of boys each summer.

To Witherspoon Dodge, of Columbus, Ga., a salute for as literate, earnest and appealing a letter as has ever come to this column. The subject matter is whether the church should take sides on economic questions. Mr. Dodge thinks it should and must. We don't, but we wish there were room here to print the whole of his letter. "If the church represents God," he says, "and bears witness to the teachings of Christ, it will seek to voice and create a higher scale of values than that which is represented in the cat and dog fight of modern life for even a living. . . . As an educational institution the church is within its province in voicing constructive ideas and ideals."

* * *

But the source of this particular controversy is whether the Southern Baptist Conference should have indorsed a co-operative as against a competitive economic system, and that, to our way of thinking, is not a question of ideals but one of economic science. For the church to take sides on such a question would be comparable to a side-taking on its part in the current dispute over the feasibility of establishing a truly permanent meteorological base at the North Pole. The thing has nothing to do with ideals. Or, rather, we hope it doesn't, because we claim ideals of our own and yet we are convinced that the competitive system, civilized and umpired, is the only one that will really work.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
July 22, 1937

LYNCHING SCENE WARNING CARDS WILL BE TESTED

Officers Find No Clue To Identity of Band Of Masked Men

Warning placards found beside the bodies of two negroes lynched near here Tuesday have been sent to the department of justice in Washington for examination, Sheriff Frank Stoutamire said today.

No clues pointing to suspicion of anyone have been uncovered in the case so far, officers declared.

The placards will be examined for fingerprints, texture of the paint and ink with which they were lettered, and the character of cardboard in them.

May Turn Up Something

Test bullets fired from pistols owned and carried by every city and county law officer also have been sent to Washington for comparison with 10 pistol balls found in the bodies of the slain negroes Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder.

"This expert exammation may turn up something," said Sheriff Stoutamire.

"There isn't much we can do, but we are trying to find some clues," Police Chief Gid Powledge declared.

"We have nobody under suspicion," said State Attorney Orion C Parker, jr. 'We are working on some information."

Patrolman V F Kelly, whose stabbing Sunday morning by the negroes led to their lynching, was reported "much better" in the hospital here today.

A coroner's jury, which heard policemen and sheriff's officers detail their whereabouts at the time the negroes were taken from jail and killed, stood in recess until a further call from State Attorney Parker. It has not returned a verdict.

"We may have another session of the jury in a few days," said Parker. "When we get any evidence we will present it to the jury. The report from the department of justice will be given to the jury."

The negroes were removed from jail by four masked men who made Policeman Harry Fairbanks use the police department keys to open county jail doors. Fairbanks said he offered no resistance because a pistol was pointed at him.

Fairbanks was on duty last night as usual. City officials said they did not plan any independent investigation because the coroner's jury investigation had brought testimony from police officers showing they had no part in killing Hawkins and Ponder.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
July 22, 1937

Murder In Tallahassee

We had hoped that Florida might get through 1937 with a clean lynching record. Certain individuals in Tallahassee have rudely smashed that desired end. Four men took two 18-year-old negroes out of the Leon county jail, in the shadow of the Capitol, and probably joined by others, carried them a short distance out of town, riddled them with bullets.

The young negroes were charged with inflicting knife wounds on a policeman. The most serious charge which could have been brought against them was assault with intent to murder. Whatever the charge, they were entitled to fair trial.

We can readily understand the racial feeling which flames into mob action when a negro assaults a white woman, but there was no such justification in this case. It was deliberate murder.

Governor Cone is justly indignant. "This was not a lynching," he said, "it was murder. I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. I'm going to prosecute whoever we get to the limit of the law."

Well said, Governor; follow your words with action.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 22, 1937

Florida's Shame

"This was not a lynching—it was murder," declares Governor Cone of Florida in comment on the action of a small group of masked men who visited the county jail at Tallahassee, located within four blocks of the state's capitol, and seizing two negro youths charged with stabbing a policeman, carried them off several miles from the city and riddled their bodies with bullets.

The sheriff's statement was that four men, wearing sacks over their heads, forced a night policeman to accompany them to the county jail, where they demanded the keys upon threat of violence. The keys were forthcoming. The officer was forced to accompany the group to the jail and open six doors necessary to get from the outside to the cells. Then he was tied and gagged and left locked in a cell block. The Tallahassee police department uses the county jail and has its own set of keys, the sheriff explained.

According to the sheriff the county jailer slept through all the proceedings, and was only awakened by cries of help from the bound officer after the invaders had made their getaway with their victims. Had there been more vigilance and determination to resist the invaders this is one instance where a lynching or assassination could have been averted. In the record recently printed of lynchings for the past twelve months the few recorded were in states of the deep South.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
July 21, 1937

Florida and the Mob

Two young Negroes at Tallahassee, Florida, stabbed a policeman when he tried to question them about a breaking and entering crime. They were held in city jail pending the outcome of the officer's injuries. Gravely wounded, the officer, however, was still living at last report.

Not so the young Negroes. A mob broke into the jail, took out the prisoners, escorted them to a lonely place on a highway and promptly lynched them. Dead, they possibly have given up a great deal more than a tooth for a tooth, or a life for a life. That the mob would kill them before the outcome of their victim's injuries was determined, is not astonishing per se. Mobs never think, therefore they are likely to do most anything that the most lawless and most imaginative and cunning member suggests.

The remarkable feature of the whole affair is the complete ignorance of the police chief regarding the delivery from the city-county jail, and the fact that the sheriff of the county "could not be reached" for a statement.

All this may be as the police chief says. Yet we recall similar lynchings in Florida and other Southern states wherein the law enforcement officers very innocently explained that the mob took charge of things while they weren't looking.

It is precisely this negligence which gives to hoodlums and mobsters their greatest encouragement and keeps racial hatreds seething in the South.

Florence, S. C., Morning News
August 22, 1937

STRENGTHENING THE ARGUMENT

A Charlotte Observer editorial commenting on the Tennessee lynching illustrates how these recurring outbreaks savagely tend to discourage even some of those strong in the conviction that the Federal government ought not to invade the field of local law-enforcement. The Observer says, in part:

We have never been able to follow the contentions of those in favor of Federal intervention in this matter on the ground that it would be more potent as a preventative than the governing authorities of the States.

But if Tennessee and other Southern States, along with States entirely outside of those in the South, keep on permitting these outrages, we will at length be compelled to capitulate and even argue for the Federal government to see what it can do in the way of putting an end to these crimes.

This feeling is understandable. It is all the more so when the story of this latest lynching reveals the apparently slipshod inefficiency of a sheriff accompanied by only one aide attempting to convey the prisoner from Memphis to Covington, across country in an automobile.

Possibly it is to be doubted whether local police officers have any constitutional right to be as dumb as that without forfeiting their authority to Washington.

Yet The Observer and all others opposing this proposed encroachment on local government must not forget this point; State and local governments must be made stronger and more diligent in their tasks; but, unless these local governments are to be virtually abolished, their functions must not be surrendered to the Federal government.

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Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

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Charlotte, N. C. Observer
August 5, 1937

BEST CURE FOR LYNCHING APPLIED.

An impressive example of the proper way to deal with the problem of lynching has just been given the country by Sheriff JOHN WHITE MOORE, Iredell county superior court and the State of North Carolina.

If every sheriff in every county in North Carolina and all other States followed the worthy example of Sheriff MOORE and all other States followed the example set by North Carolina in this instance, the Nation would have no lynching problem and there would be no agitation in Congress for enactment of an anti-lynching law.

Within approximately 72 hours after a white farmer's wife in Iredell county was criminally assaulted by a negro living on the same farm, he was on the way to the penitentiary at Raleigh under death sentence to be executed September 10—and a threatened lynching had been averted.

The crime was committed Saturday afternoon. The sheriff arrested the negro shortly thereafter, but instead of placing him in the jail of his own county took precautions to carry him secretly to another jail in an unnamed county.

An hour or two after Sunday midnight a crowd of more than 100 men, said to have been from the neighborhood where the crime was committed, rode to Statesville in 25 or 30 automobiles and demanded of the sheriff that they be admitted to the jail to get the prisoner. The sheriff escorted a delegation of three of their number through the jail to satisfy them the negro was not there. Some of them indicated they would come to Charlotte to get him, but the crowd evidently deemed such a mission futile and did not make the trip.

The sheriff promptly informed Governor HOEY of the situation, and asked that State highway patrolmen be sent to Statesville Tuesday when the case was scheduled to be tried. Fifteen patrolmen were on the scene during the trial, under command of Lieutenant FISHER. Commander CHAS. D. FARMER also was on hand. There was no attempt at disorder.

The defendant was given a fair trial, under circumstances assuring fairness and justice. The evidence was conclusive. The victim swore to the essential facts in the case, that she had been assaulted in the absence of her husband at her home by the negro whom she had known at least two years. The sheriff testified the defendant had admitted after his arrest that he had attacked the woman, but claimed he was under the influence of liquor at the time. Several other witnesses were heard.

The jury consumed but half an hour in its deliberations, before it returned a verdict of guilty; Judge ROUSSEAU sentenced him to death and the prisoner soon was on his way to Raleigh, protected by the sheriff's officers and the State patrol.

No mob ever had a chance to get its hands on the prisoner from first to last, because Sheriff MOORE was determined that neither his county nor the State should be disgraced by a lynching in Iredell. Of course the State authorities backed him up, as they always have done and will do when the sheriff takes proper action.

The story of the case has been detailed here because it is the simple and impressive story of how lynchings can be prevented anywhere in North Carolina, anywhere in the South or the Nation, when the officers of the law really wish to prevent them.

It is the story, too, of the application of the only medicine that is needed to stop the perennial introduction and debate of anti-lynching bills in Congress.

Sheriff MOORE and North Carolina have shown the most effective and most desirable way to end lynchings.

Roanoke, Va., World News
August 7, 1937

The Crime of Lynching

Mark Etheridge, formerly publisher of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, now general manager of the Louisville Courier-Journal, told a conference on education and race relations at Blue Ridge, North Carolina, that "so long as the white South tolerates the application of extra legal measures toward the Negro, no man, white or black, can be assured of the integrity of the law under which he lives."

Whether lynching is to be stamped out by Federal or State laws, or both, and by what kind of laws, may be matters for debate. But that this form of lawlessness must be brought to an end cannot be challenged. The hoary excuse of "defense of womanhood" has been thoroughly exploded, both because a majority of recent lynchings have been for other causes, and because there is no question of the action of the courts where such crimes are proved.

What is needed more than statutes, State or Federal, is an aroused sense of public opinion. It is generally argued that only white men of the lower order of intelligence take part in lynchings—that decent people have no part in them. That argument also falls flat, when it is remembered that the so-called decent people, who had no actual part in the lynchings, have failed to condemn them, and have not insisted that the members of lynching mobs be brought into court for trial on the charge of mob-murder. So long as the so-called decent element of any community keeps in office a sheriff who fails to defend a prisoner, or a Commonwealth's attorney who fails to prosecute a mob, it cannot be contended that its skirts are clear of a crime that has put a stain on the South for a generation.

Sarasota, Fla., [illegible]
August 5, 1937

"THING" NOT ENDED

Because a coroner's jury adjourned without fixing blame for the Talahassee lynching two weeks ago, the state investigation probably will fold up. Orion C. Parker, state attorney assigned by Governor Cone to investigate the crime, gave an idea of what may be expected when he remarked "that just about ends this thing."

Without all the records in view, and compelled to base an opinion on published accounts of the investigation, it must appear to all lay observers that the state has at best made but a half hearted effort to discover the perpetrators of this crime. The tendency seems to have been to keep it quiet, to hush it up, to let as little as possible about it get abroad. Can there be any surprise, then, that there is a widespread belief that somewhere there is strong sympathy with the slayers and a fixed intention to safeguard them against discovery or punishment?

Despite Mr. Parker's assertion, the adjournment of the coroner's jury without deciding who killed the two negroes, does not "just about end this thing." It leaves a blot upon the state and a sigma upon the state's police agencies that no amount of covering up can ever hope to remove.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 23, 1937

Florida's Latest Lynchings.

When Governor Cone, of Florida, was informed of the lynching of two negro youths, who had been imprisoned in the county jail at Tallahassee charged with assaulting an officer, he spoke out boldly and vigorously declaring the mob's crime was "murder," and promising to use every means to apprehend the mobsters and to prosecute them to "the limit of the law." Governor Cone's avowed attitude is in striking contrast to that of certain Florida officials with reference to lynchings in years gone by. In the case of the Greenwood lynching, some three years ago, the authorities had been tipped off that a "neck-tie party" was being planned—but they lifted not a finger to prevent it. Governor Cone is right, of course, in characterizing lynching as "murder," and he is to be commended for his condemnation of such brutality and lawlessness. It is hoped that Florida's officers will now follow up with prompt and efficient action the righteous policy their state's chief executive officer has announced. Brave and strong words are of no avail unless backed by swift and vigorous action.

This latest lynching, as might have been expected, has served to increase the clamor and demand of those who favor national anti-lynching legislation, such as that now pending in the Congress. Such legislation would, of course, serve to take more of what little police power the states have left and transfer it to the central government in Washington. Politicians in sections where negroes vote in large numbers are particularly strong for such legislation.

The demand for a federal anti-lynching law might fall and be crushed under its own weight if the law enforcement officers of the states, counties and cities in which lynchings occur would show a stronger disposition to do their duty in apprehending and punishing the sadists who take the law in their own hands. "Just how Sam knows by painless," Sam Cannon, electrician at the South Carolina penitentiary, is quoted in a news item as saying death in the electric chair, of which he has charge, is "absolutely disposed to take his word for it.

Miami, Fla. Herald
August 6, 1937

LYNCHING

LYNCHING drops out of the nation's headlines, as congress rejects antilynching legislation and the Tallahassee inquiry is "closed."

Sheriff Frank Stoutamire of Leon county has word from Washington that tests on the markings of bullets taken from the bodies of two negro mob victims were not fired from any of the weapons of the Tallahassee police. Four men with sacks over their heads and displaying familiarity with the jail had entered, taken the two negroes out on the Jacksonville highway and killed them on a side road. There will be no further inquiry.

The incident became national news because a bill pending before congress, if passed, would have assessed up to $10,000 against any county in which a lynching should take place, as damages for the family of the one killed. Southern senators were able to kill an amendment to another bill which would have put this policy into effect.

Lynching in the South or in the North or West is regrettable. But very seldom can it be prevented by the local authorities under the peculiar circumstances in which such mob action usually arises.

To penalize the citizens of a community for something they rarely can foresee and seldom prevent would be wholly unjust.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
August 8, 1937

LYNCHING SCARE SUBSIDES

NORTH CAROLINA's first lynching scare in some time ended peaceably Tuesday when Walter (Preacher) Caldwell 37 year-old negro, was quickly convicted in Iredell superior court of assault upon a Mooresville woman and was sentenced by Judge J. A. Rousseau of North Wilkesboro to death in the gas chamber September 10. Immediately after sentence was passed, the prisoner was taken to Raleigh.

Monday morning, between two and three o'clock, a crowd of 125 men in 30 automobiles converged on the Iredell county jail, apparently with the intention of lynching the negro. Sheriff John White Moore called for a committee from the crowd, took them through the jail, and showed them that the negro was not there. The crowd then dispersed.

Where the negro had been kept was not disclosed, but he was produced for trial Tuesday morning, with 15 State highway patrolmen, commanded by Lieut. L. R. Fisher of the Asheville office, standing guard to prevent possible violence.

The trial was short and to the point. The jury received the charge and returned in 30 minutes with the verdict. The sentence by Judge Rousseau followed with equal dispatch, and the negro was on his way in a few minutes to death row at Raleigh.

Elberton, Ga., Star
August 3, 1937

WHY LYNCHINGS?

Several years ago, while hanging was the death penalty in Georgia, a man murdered his wife. The writer visited the jail and interviewed the murderer. He readily acknowledged the crime. He stated that he was in love with another woman and wanted to get his wife out of the way so that he could marry this woman. He stated that his wife was sitting on the back porch shelling peas; that he went out to the lot and hitched up his mule to a wagon; got an axe, slipped up behind his wife and knocked her on the head; that he returned to his wagon and got in, but that he heard his wife groaning and went back around where she was and finished killing her with the axe. And the scoundrel told this in a cool, bloodthirsty manner.

Came the trial. The murderer said that a confession was forced from him and that he was not guilty and he got off with ten years.

A woman has just murdered one of her little children and attempted to kill the other. She acknowledged the crime and told about how it was done. She attempted to burn both of them, but only succeeded with one.

She gets off with a few years in the penitentiary.

And now, right at home, a man is tried for the ravishing of several little girls, who identified him. He was sentenced to be electrocuted but gets a new trial on the grounds of lunacy.

So—once again—why lynchings?—Lanier County News.

Lynchings Can Be Stopped

There has been another lynching in the South—this time in Tennessee. It is another proof of the painful fact that no fundamental progress has been made in the long, hard problem of making people apply cold reason in times of heated passion.

It may be that argument and education never will suffice alone to make potential lynch mobs remember that the laws and courts exist to do justice. But The Telegraph is too obstinate to believe that words and reason are wasted on the subject. Concededly, so long as there is nothing but talk about lynching there will be no remedy for it. But enough talk eventually will have an effect on voters and they will have an effect on enforcement officers.

A few determined and perhaps sacrificial efforts to prevent lynchings will yield results. Not so many years ago Bibb county saw two good examples of determined law enforcement officers preventing lynchings—and officers who were instrumental in preventing each of the lynchings still hold office.

In one, a sheriff and his force stood off thousands of mobsmen at the county jail. In another a jailer flatly refused to surrender his prisoner and offered to meet force with force if necessary.

It is such cases as these which teach real respect for law and order.

In this week's lynching in Tennessee, a party of six white men took a Negro slaying suspect from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan and an assistant between Memphis and Covington. The sheriff said he did not recognize the men because they were masked. That may be possible. But less easily explainable was his failure to secure the license tag number of the car in which the lynchers rode. There was no indication of any real resistance to the "mob" of six.

The guilt or innocence of lynch victims or their suspected guilt naturally is the inflammatory element in mob motivation. But in reason it has no bearing on the issue. The reason for lynch law's despicability is simply that it abrogates the law, the courts, and everything that this country has set up for passionless administration of justice. Every lynching is a little contribution toward anarchy.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
August 3, 1937

Credit

Credit belongs to the sheriff who defies a lynching mob and disperses it by the sheer earnestness of his determination to protect his prisoners at any cost.

Credit also belongs to the sheriff who uses the good sense people believed he had when they elected him to office and puts his imperiled prisoners in a safe jail in another county where they will offer no temptation to aroused public indignation.

The alertness and the foresight of Sheriff John Moore of Iredell County, saved the State a lynching or an ugly incident when he confined the Negro charged with Saturday's assault on a white woman in another county. In either case he is entitled to the thanks of the State.

Most appreciative ought to be the would-be lynchers themselves.

Columbia, S. C. State
August 21, 1937

Lynchings.

The report of six masked men over in Tipton county, Tennessee, shouting "to hell with the law," and seizing a terror-stricken Negro accused of slaying a white officer, "leaving his body dangling at the end of a frayed rope after riddling it with bullets," shocks all justice-loving people.

At one time in our history, back in the 80's and on up to 1901, lynchings ran over 100 annually, except in 1890 they numbered 96. In 1884 and 1892 the number was 211 and 231, respectively. Since 1902 they have diminished from 92 in that year to 20 in 1935; although in 1932, 1929 and 1928 there were only 8, 10, and 11, respectively.

Totals from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, are 1,311 whites and 3,370 Negroes. According to The New York World statistics for the 41 years from 1885 to 1926, inclusive, the total number of persons lynched in the United States was 4,250, of whom 3,205 were Negroes and 1,045 were whites. According to our census bureau statistics, from 1889-1933, inclusive, there were 469 persons lynched in Mississippi; 480 in Georgia; 351 in Texas; 342 in Louisiana; 303 in Alabama; 241 in Florida; 239 in Arkansas; 207 in Tennessee; 168 in Kentucky; 137 in South Carolina; 92 in Oklahoma; 90 in Missouri; 80 in Virginia; with other states following less and less, and New England states with none.

The foregoing is a record which sadly tarnishes the glory of any Christian, civilized, democratic country. The definition of the word is disputed. Some say it is derived from a Virginia farmer, named "Lynch," who thus took the law in his own hands. But the derivation has little to do with the injustice and shame of it.

An authority says that the East is almost free from lynchings; that in the majority of states in the West, most persons lynched are whites; and of those in the South, the larger number are Negroes. This authority finds that the principal causes for lynchings in the South are murder and rape; in the West, murder and offences against property.

We also have it upon reliable authority that lynching decreases and disappears in a region as the population grows denser and civil institutions grow and "as public sentiment is educated to demand legal rather than illegal and irregular infliction of punishment for even the most horrible of crimes."

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Discussions

White Press, Southern

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Oxford, Miss., Eagle
May 6, 1937

Seems to us Mississippi newspapers have been a little too concerned over the recent lynching episode in Montgomery county and its probable effect on the anti-lynching bill now in congress. While not condoning the deed some of the newspapers are endeavoring to formulate an excuse for it and at the same time to find much fault with forms of brutality allegedly practiced in other sections.

Anti-lynching legislation will in the main be considered upon its own merits and there is nothing to be gained in trying to raise a smoke screen or in lending encouragement to sectional prejudice. There is already far too much of the latter.

Bluefield, W. Va., Sunset News
May 25, 1937

A GEORGE ORGY

GEORGIA has a new kind of mob violence chalked up to its discredit—the "lynching" of a corpse. But it was none the less a degrading, savage orgy.

Willie Reed, a 20-year-old Negro, was said to have confessed to slaying two white women. The sheriff claimed the Negro youth was shot to death while trying to escape from custody.

The Negro's double crime was bad enough. Having confessed, he would have been put to death in due course. The sheriff was justified in shooting the prisoner if he were attempting to escape. Justice apparently had been satisfied.

The bestial, fiendish act of the mob in taking the body from the undertaking parlor, dragging it around the streets of Brainbridge and burning the corpse in a public pyre was an exhibition of sadism harmful not only to those taking part but to the entire community.

Such a spectacle is degarding to the perpetrators because it is murderous and barbaric. They can never be the same again, for the violence they committed was not against the Negro, then already dead, but against their own better natures, thus outraged in their mouth-frothing orgy—like mad dogs that are victims of their viciousness.

And the community itself has witnessed an act which will infect it with this sadistic rabies.

So long as no federal anti-lynching law is passed, this and similar sorts of orgiastic barbarity will continue to spread splotches of human blood on the map of southern civilization.

Jackson, Miss., News
May 27, 1937

THE WOMAN'S SIDE

Mrs. E. S. Cook, of Montgomery, Ala., former Mississippi woman, sends to the Daily News a lengthy article on the subject of lynching.

Mrs. Cook is a bit radical on the subject. She favors lynching for the one crime that provokes a majority of lynchings and has no hesitancy in so saying.

There are some sentences in Mrs. Cook's letter that are worth reading. Here they are:

Why so much maudlin sympathy for the person lynched and so little said about the woman who is the victim of criminal assault?

So few words said against the most terrible crime that can be committed on the face of this earth.

We had a lynching here in Montgomery last month. A young couple, walking home at midnight, were held up by a negro. The boy was forced to lie on the ground while the negro brutally assaulted the girl. It happened only two blocks from a busy street. Thereafter a prominent judge wrote an article condemning lynching. He denounced the sheriff as a coward because a mob overpowered the sheriff. Local papers were full of articles on the subject.

I am not a radical. I do not favor lynching save as speedy punishment for just one crime, but I do contend it should be condoned and not so loudly condemned for that crime.

Why don't they stop and do a little thinking about that poor little girl and the bitter memory of one night that she must carry with her to the grave?

A man who commits rape, whether white or black, does not fear death. He doesn't fear death because he is a brute, and when a brute is running at large the best thing to do is to exterminate that brute.

Here in Montgomery there are women who are afraid to go alone to the cemeteries to put flowers on the graves of their loved ones.

Why is it that so many women are leaving the farms? They are afraid to stay alone.

The law is so nice and just—and so slow!

Why is it that there are lawyers so low-down that they will serve as defendants for rapists?

That, you must admit, is a strong summary of the woman's side of the case.

Yes, lynching is a horrible crime. It is resorted to quite often in cases other than the crime of rape. Too often the mobs are quite too quick.

However, the South has, always has had, and ever will have, an "unwritten law" concerning rape.

It applies to the white rapist as well as the negro rapist.

No use arguing about it. That "unwritten law" will persist, and all the speeches made, all the resolutions written and all the laws enacted will not change it.

Passage of a Federal anti-lynching law would be an act of utter futility. It would provoke lynchings in lieu of preventing them.

It's a fact-facing subject.

What would you do if your wife, daughter, or one of your loved ones, was ravished? You'd probably be right there with the mob!

...gton, N. C., Times-News
May 27, 1937

MOB SPIRIT FLARES

NORTH CAROLINA, generally credited with being among the more liberal and progressive States of the South, has not had a lynching to blacken its record of racial relations with the Negro in several years. Yet that the menace of racial antipathy, ready to flare on the instant into the atavism of mob lynching lust, slumbers ever near the surface, especially among rural populations, was revealed cogently in an episode occurring this week near the Albright township in this county, about five miles south of Graham.

A Negro trusty convict, who had escaped a prison camp, was apprehended hiding near a haystack by a lone woman. The woman, panicky at seeing the shadowy figure of the Negro, who "jumped at her with out-thrust arms", ran screaming for help. Help was mustered almost instantly—the kind of help with which the rural South is only too gruesomely familiar—a mob armed with shotguns, rifles, sticks and stones.

It is safe to assume that had members of the mob which responded to the cries for assistance from the woman caught the fugitive before Sheriff Stockard and his posse did, Alamance county in all probability would have had a lynching—its second in this century, if figures are correct—to blot its record and bring down deserved shame upon it.

Yet what had the black been guilty of? Nothing. He was only hiding, as would any escapee who feared detection. There is no record that he even touched the woman, much less insulted or assaulted her. He says himself that he threw up his hands, believing officers of the law at hand.

While it is easy to see how the woman could have been frightened into a condition of near-hysteria, and perhaps have babbled a semi-incoherent story out of which the inflamed minds of the mobsters might only too glibly have construed a story of attack, the near-tragedy of the whole episode offers a stark lesson in the uselessness, the criminal thoughtlessness of mob action. Had these mobsters acted as to all intents and purposes they appeared determined to act, an innocent man would have gone to horrible death—and Alamance county and North Carolina would have suffered a severe blow to their sociological prestige as a county and a State, which have outgrown such manifestations of lawlessness.

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 5, 1937

Heavy Must Lie The Mobster's Heart

The great danger that always exists when an impassioned mob assumes to administer what it may think is justice is exemplified in this charge at Montgomery that the Henry County mob which took a prisoner from jail and lynched him had the wrong Negro.

One of the great reasons why lynchings are wrong is that they deny the accused the right of a fair chance to prove his innocence. And always when a mob acts, there is the possibility that the wrong man becomes the victim of the crowd's irrational anger.

Any normal-thinking man after participating in a lynching must have twinges of conscience. He has done an illegal thing. He has joined in an act that strikes at the roots of justice. He has yielded to passion in a case where, because a life was at stake, reason should prevail if it ever prevails anywhere.

But on top of this remorse rests also the ever-present fear that the mob acting in haste and in heat has lynched the wrong person. The mobster can never get away from that fear. He can never get rid of the possibility that he has killed in error. A juror sitting in a capital case may have that feeling, but never in the degree that a mob-killer has.

Of course this charge at Montgomery should be investigated. For if it could be proved that the mob was mistaken, then lynching would have received a worse blow than it could from either the impeachment of Sheriff Corbitt or the conviction of some of the mob members.

PERSONAL TO EDUCATION.

One of the answers invariably made when the cause of a federal anti-lynching law is advanced has to do with what education has done, is doing and can do to reduce these barbaric manifestations in the south.

There is considerable point to the assertion as the total number of lynchings, although vacillating from year to year in a manner which interferes seriously with the drawing of positive conclusions, has decreased. But acts of mob-lawlessness do occur, and with these continuing occurrences education has yet to bring retributive justice. The Daily News' contention is that federal agencies of law and order should be standing by, that there is justification for their intervention so long as a single lynching occurs, that state and local agencies have patently failed in their sworn responsibility and that the dispatching of G-men to ferret out mob members and bring them into federal court offers the most realistic approach to a situation which, for all the decrease in lynchings, remains damnable.

There is a field, however, in which law inforcement agencies, Washington included, can do little. It has just been sickeningly illustrated at Bainbridge, Ga., where atrocity has been committed for mere atrocity's sake. A negro accused, and allegedly having confessed, of the murder of two white women was shot and killed when he attempted to escape from two deputies who were, according to the official version, trying to remove him to a place of safety. The actual death of the negro is thus under a cloud, as instances of official indifference so crudely concealed as to fall little short, if any, of actual connivance, come to mind but let's skip that in the present instance and move along to what subsequently happened.

After the negro had been killed a dozen bullet wounds in his body from the fire of only two officers, the denouement can be attributed only to sadism or fiendishness. A mob, estimated by the United Press at more than 200 men and women, rushed the undertaking establishment to which his body had been removed, seized the remains, dragged them around town and finally wound up at the ball park where a generally good time was had in the cremation of the mangled corpse.

And now, education, what are you going to do about manifestations like unto that? It is indeed terrible how these uncivilized nations such as Russia, Germany, Italy and Spain spill blood and make barbarities an accepted part of their governmental procedure.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
June 18, 1937

TO BAR LYNCHINGS IN FLORIDA

It is reported that women in Florida are organizing for the purpose of creating a sentiment against lynching. The movement arising with the women was little expected as it is the women who are the victims of the brutes committing rape. Of course, the law should be preserved and in most instances, it is observed and when such crimes are committed, the criminal is given a fair trial and punished as the law provides. However, there have been some instances when one of these criminals have been tried under the unwritten law, swung to the limb of a tree and his body riddled with bullets. Such occurrences take place only in isolated cases. Lynchings are being, and have been, condemned in the South for all these years and from the records of the last decade, the number has shown a marked decrease.

The organization of these women in Florida is of the purest purpose, no doubt, and its effect will be helpful in the preservation of the law when it is violated. We do believe, however, that in such cases, the victim should not be required to enter the courts and testify. Depositions should be taken and submitted to the court and members of the juries. In this way much embarrassment and humiliation for these unfortunate women would be saved. Besides, there should be no publicity given to such crimes. In this state there is a law prohibiting the publication of the name of the victim, but it should go farther and require trials, if the victim must be present, to be held in privacy.

Roanoke Va. World News
August 19, 1937

Now It Is Tennessee

The lynching of Albert Gooden, 35-year-old Negro suspect, in Tennessee does not afford an argument for a Federal anti-lynching bill. What the State of Tennessee may do—or may not do—about this affair may afford a very powerful argument. The argument against a Federal statute is that the States are able to take care of the situation. When State after State fails to take care of it, the argument becomes a bit threadbare.

Gooden was accused of killing Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason, Tenn., on July 17. After his arrest he was held in a Memphis jail and was being brought by motor car to Covington, for a hearing, by Sheriff Vaughan, when six men took the prisoner away from the sheriff. A little later, his bullet-punctured body was found hanging beneath a highway bridge. Sheriff Vaughan says he did not recognize any of the men, and failed to take the number of their car. He could not explain how the men knew he was moving the Negro, or by which road. Apparently the killers used the sheriff's own gun, for it was found lying on the bridge, having been taken from the officer when they took his prisoner. The sheriff made no attempt to follow the men, since he had been disarmed.

An act of Congress cannot cure race prejudice. It may in some instances accentuate it. A Federal anti-lynching bill may not put an end to lynching. But since there is no evidence that the State of Tennessee intends to make more than a perfunctory investigation, and no suggestion that the sheriff of Tipton county be removed for surrendering his prisoner to a lynching mob, point seems to be given to the suggestion that a Federal District Attorney should have power to investigate, and a Federal court power to deal with those who have committed murder of a handcuffed and defenseless prisoner who had not been convicted of any crime.

The Federal anti-lynching bill has been laid over for this session of Congress, now rushing toward adjournment. It will have preferred status when Congress reconvenes in January. States opposed to Federal interference have an opportunity to demonstrate whether as a matter of fact they are capable of dealing with lynching mobs. If Tennessee can bring these six men into court on a murder charge, it will have demonstrated that so far as that State is concerned, a Federal statute is not needed. Virginia has not had a lynching in many years. But Virginia still rests uneasily under the imputation that no one has been brought to trial for the mob-murder of Raymond Bird.

The Federal bill has passed the House, and is on the Senate Calendar. Whether it will be passed in January, extending Federal authority in a local police matter, may depend on what effort the States make in the interim to deal with those who take the law into their own hands. The lynching States may as well realize that the crime is no longer to be tolerated. If they are impotent to handle their lynching mobs, the Federal government is going to do it for them, whether they like it or not.

White Press, Southern.

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Discussions

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Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
May 6, 1937

THE SOUTH ANSWERS

The South answers the vicious and unfair criticism from many sources that lynching is condoned and the perpetrators go unpunished.

Over in Henry county in Alabama, a sheriff was found to be negligent in his duty in connection with a lynching.

The sheriff will face impeachment on June 3.

The officer said a mob of fifty men forced him to release a negro, held on charges of attacking a white woman.

It was a crime for which lynchings will never be stamped out.

But Alabama is taking commendable steps to punish wilful negligent officers.

Wherever possible the dignity of the law should be upheld, and the courts allowed to take their course.

There is no substitute for law and order, and lynchings are represensible and are condoned by no one, even though they may be justifiable in some instances.

Arlington Va.
Chronicle
April 16, 1937

LAWS AGAINST LYNCHING

WE are democrats, and insist upon being so classified and thus described. We believe in the strict preservation of the reserved rights of the state, and strictly limiting the federal government to those specific powers granted to it by the Constitution. But when members of congress from the South, who voted for all the unconstitutional legislation set aside because it invaded the rights of the states, now bellow that the bill to prevent lynching should be voted down because it invades the field of states rights, such bellowing excites our soul's disgust and our mind's abhorrance. Is the doctrine of states rights to be lowered and degraded for the defence of mob murder, and for the defeat of legislation intended to protect the lives of citizens of the states, be they black or white? Look at this bloody record of mob murder: In Alabama · 267 negroes lynched, Arkansas 204, Florida 226, Georgia 434, Louisiana 295, Mississippi 445, South Carolina 134, Tennessee 169, Texas 290. We do not include the number of white persons lynched in those states because the percentage compared to the number of negroes lynched is so small. Mob murder in this country is an exclusive activity of the nine states mentioned, and in those states the victims of the mob murderers have exclusively been defenceless negroes, many of whom were innocent, and many not legally identified. Those are the only states in this country where even the court-trials of negroes, charged with rape or murder, are carried on under circumstances that insure conviction whether the negro is innocent or not. Jurors selected without regard to the constitutional rights of the accused, the court room filled with would-be mob murderers, the grounds around the courthouse filled with a milling, howling mob, during the progress of the trial, mobs shouting under windows while the jury is going through the pantomime of deciding the case, all these are familiar accompaniments of the trial of a negro accused of rape or murder in those nine states. In Mississippi a judge is defeated for re-election because he set aside a verdict convicting a negro of rape, on the ground that there was no evidence to justify conviction.

In the nine states mentioned negroes have been murdered by mobs for such offences as walking on the side of a bridge used by white people, for having a quarrel with a white man, for striking a white man with the fist in self defence, for jostling a white woman in a crowd, for alleged slapping of a white woman when the negro claimed he raised his hand in a crowded street and accidently touched the woman's face. In this case the negro was not arrested at the time, but was taken from his home at night and lynched by relatives of the woman. A man was lynched for telling sharecroppers of their rights, for getting in the way of a mob looking for another person, for interfering with an officer making an arrest, for making a socialist speech, for looking disrespectfully at a white woman. A small colored boy, playing with white girls and boys on the sidewalk, grabbing in fun at a girl, tore her dress. He was lynched in broad daylight, hanged to death on a lamppost with his mother and father and brothers and sisters looking on. In Georgia a negro charged with rape was being burned, his body saturated with gasoline, and tied to a tree. His wife rushed to his side and the mob burned her to death with him. For none of these murders was anyone punished. When arrests are made nobody is convicted. All the lynching is accompanied by barbarity and unspeakable cruelty, and the victims have had their bodies mutilated before they were burned to death. The lynchings occur in public and the lynchers wear no masks. In some instances fingers of the murdered negro have been cut off and exhibited proudly as souvenirs, and clothing of the victim torn and parts distributed to be kept as precious memories of the event. Members of the mob console themselves with the familiar talk that "a negro is not a human being." All the barbaric mob murders are defended in the South by politicians on the ground that they protect the womanhood of the South. But in every state in the South the white women of the highest culture have formed organizations protesting against lynching, and more than a million white women have signed petitions against lynching. Statistics prove that not one negro in five hundred thousand ever commits the crime of rape. Except for petty stealing the negroes of the entire South are among its most law abiding people. You do

LYNCHING SLOGANS

"To hell with the law!" is the answer a Tennessee sheriff said he received when he tried to reason with six men who committed the lynching.

We don't doubt that the men were quoted correctly since they also used a good lynching slogan. Perhaps they also used some of those other good old lynching slogans:

"To hell with democracy!"

"To hell with civilization!"

We remember with what fidelity for four years guarded our women and children, whose

husbands and fathers were fighting against his freedom, and when at last he raised his black and humble hands that the shackles might be struck off, those hands were innocent of wrong against his helpless charges, and worthy to be taken in loving grasp by every man who honors loyalty and devotion."

We know that in the nine states mentioned the negro does not get justice and we know they could protect him if they wanted to do so. Lynching ended in Virginia ten years ago when Governor Harry Flood Byrd let it be known that lynching would not be tolerated. Up to this time the negro in the South has had no protector but the Supreme Court of the United States. To this court he has never turned his longing eyes in vain. It stands as the palladium and citadel of his liberty, but it is powerless to stop lynching. Any law that will protect the negro in the nine states that do not protect him, should be welcome to all good citizens, although that law is forced by necessity to come from Congress.

To hear men who voted for the National Recovery Act, and Agricultural Adjustment Act, and seven other acts, set aside by the Supreme Court, because they invade the rights of the states, come now and talk of states rights to perpetuate mob murder, is beyond human patience. It is creditable to the republicans in congress, that notwithstanding that the negroes deserted that party in the recent presidential election, the republicans voted solidly for the Federal Anti-lynching Act. No harm will ever come to this country from enforcing laws against mob murderers. When lynching is stopped the federal statute will be no longer required. If "states rights" means the right to murder defenseless citizens then states rights are a menace to society, and all government.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
May 7, 1937

Begs the Question.

"You propose to come into the South with your insulting intrusion to remove the stains of a few drops of blood here and there while you wade through pools of blood from the bodies of murder victims in your own streets and within the confines of your own premises."

So said Representative McClennan of Arkansas in a speech in the House attacking the pending anti-lynching bill. He seems to have been addressing his remarks to his colleagues from other sections of the South who are supporting the measure, and particularly to those from New York, for he continued:

"When you have mopped from the sidewalks of New York the blood of innocent children who, while at play, were shot down like rats by gangsters; when you show us that you can keep crime from thriving and operating practically at will in your own bailiwick; when you have squelched the stench of corruption in which you wallow in the largest and, as you would proclaim, the 'most civilized' city in the world, then, but not until then, are we in the South ready or willing to concede that your standards of morals, of virtue, of citizenship, of society, and respect and obedience to law are superior to ours."

Representative McLennan's speech was punctuated with applause, probably from some of his Southern colleagues. But it was a more or less rhetorical outburst which, upon analysis, is found to be wholly lacking in logic. The sad truth is that the gentleman from Arkansas was beating about the bush, fanning the air, and begging the question. For the question is not whether there is gangsterism in New York, and crimes are committed there, but whether Southern States make an honest effort to suppress the lynching mob. And the answer to the question is in the negative.

New York is a cosmopolitan city with a population three or four times that of Arkansas. It is the largest city in the United States as well as one of the largest in the world, and naturally it has a great many criminals who drift there from all parts of the country, probably including Arkansas. New York has a host of gangsters and racketeers and other criminals, and they commit numerous crimes, some of them dastardly crimes. But New York makes an honest effort to deal properly with these criminals, and not without a fair degree of success. That city hunts down its criminals and sends them to the electric chair or to prison.

Moreover, New York and other cities and the States welcome Federal assistance in bringing gangsters and gunmen and kidnappers to justice. And the Government lends this assistance. The careers of scores of outlaws who still would be defying city and State authorities have been brought to an end by Mr. Hoover and his G-Men. Possibly New York would also welcome Federal assistance in solving its lynching problem, if it had such a problem. Certainly a Federal anti-lynching law would apply to New York and to the North and East as well as to the South.

Representative McClennan delivered a speech in which he virtually admitted that the disgrace of the lynching mob is the South's disgrace. "You propose to come into the South with your insulting intrusion," he said. And he made the admission without offering any excuse for or defense of the failure of the Southern States to suppress or to attempt to suppress mob lawlessness. The people of the South will not congratulate him upon his speech.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
April 16, 1937

A Plea for Decency

That the better element of the population in the South does not countenance lynching atrocities, is evidenced by the indignation shown by good citizens of Mississippi regarding the torture slayings at Duck Hill, that state, which claimed two Negro victims.

It is perhaps more often than not the case that lynching and torture crimes are committed by men having lower character than those whom they proceed to "punish." It is certain that few men of a high order of education and intelligence ever volunteer to lead a mob, in the South or elsewhere.

Conway, S. C., Herald
April 1, 1937

SENATOR SMITH AGAINST PLAN

The following paragraph is taken from a letter written recently by Senator E. D. Smith to the Chesterfield Advertiser:

"What is the past record of the people of South Carolina? If this thing passes, the packing of the supreme court, then, whatever the President wants will be done. The anti-lynching bill will pass and be declared constitutional. The old civil rights bill, that Thaddeus Stephens had passed and which the supreme court declared unconstitutional, will be revived, and the Negroes will demand the right to attend white schools, seats in the theaters, in a whole, every civil right that the whites enjoy regardless of state lines. It is the most dangerous thing that has ever occurred."

Mobs And Men

Recently near Fort Walton, Fla., a group of armed and hooded men halted a sheriff, seized his 30-year-old Negro prisoner on the eve of his trial and riddled him with buckshot. It was Florida's third, the South's eighth, lynching this year.

From Villa Rica, Ga., comes another kind of story. Three men—one white and two black—were in a railroad water tank 30 feet deep, painting the walls with tar. Suddenly there was a crackle of flame which spread with the rapidity of an explosive. A narrow, one-man ladder led to the top of the tank and safety. F. L. Hill, white foreman for the Southern Railroad, stood back and ordered his Negro assistants up the ladder. They got out without injury. Foreman Hill was overcome by fumes and burned to death.

There is a vast difference between men in mobs and men as individuals. As mobs they are emotional, brutal, cowardly; as individuals they act like F. L. Hill, hero.

That is why this country must have anti-lynching and other laws to punish mob anarchy. If ever this democracy is destroyed it will be by mobs.

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White Press, Southern.

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Madison, Fla., Recorder
July 23, 1937

War abroad, bitter quarreling in our country's seat of government, and lynchings in our own state's Capital City are among the important, though unfortunate, news of the past week.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
July 25, 1937

FUNNY BUT SAD

One of the funniest jibes we have read in years is the following from the London Era:

"Notice on an office door in an Alabama township:

"'Back in an hour. Gone to lynch.'"

The substitution of the word "lynch" for "lunch" in that brief bit of humor was an inspiration.

At the same time, while admitting the merit of the Era's wisecrack, Americans are bound to feel thoughtful and perhaps a bit humiliated. How plainly the foregoing quotation shows the opinion the English and other "foreigners" generally have of the South! To them it is not a section distinguished by hospitality, steadily advancing industrial achievement and humanitarianism but one especially notorious for its tendency to inflict mass murder upon helpless individuals.

It is a depressing picture. However, thanks to the activities of thousands of good Southern women and other reform agencies, lynching is fast losing its popularity below the Mason-Dixon line and within a few years it may be possible that "Alabama" will not mean the same thing as "lynching" to the average Englishman.

PHILADELPHIA, MISS, DEMOCRAT
JULY 16, 1937 J22

FIGHT BACK

Tuskegee Institute, negro school, comes forth with its usual semi-annual report, giving the lynching record in the South.

This time, it happens to be one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi.

That is a total of four for the first six months of the year, the same number as last year.

Neither Alabama, Georgia nor Mississippi condones these lynchings.

If Tuskegee Institute really wanted to get up records, they would do well to look to other sections as well.

How many negroes are killed each year in Chicago? How many in New York? In St. Louis? In other cities?

Machine guns, pistols, blackjacks and knives are used there.

But the victims are just as dead as if lynched with a rope.

An unlawful killing is a lynching by whatever name it may be called.

We are sick and tired of seeing the South pointed out as the only unlawful section of the country.

Within the past few days, three little girls were choked to death in California by a maniac.

Every state has its dark side.

We give credit to Tuskegee Institute for doing a great educational work, particularly in the light of the work of such men as Dr. Carver.

But Tuskegee should look beyond the South and see what happens to negroes in other states.

They will find there just as many, if not more, killings and crime than in the South.

Let the South—its newspapers and its people—rise up and begin to tell the whole story.

Let the South begin to fight back at the insidious and continued unwarranted slush that is poured out upon our heads year after year.

New York, Chicago, St. Louis, California and other places have just as bad, if not worse, crime records than does the South.

Then let our people begin to stand up on their hind legs and let the facts be known.

In other words, fight back.

KANSAS CITY Telegraph
TYLER TEX
JULY 13, 1937 J22

Lynching Figures

Representative Hatton W. Sumners gave the House some figures the other day that the Senate will do well to consider if the upper chamber ever runs so short of legislation that it must consider the Wagner-Van Nuys pro-lynching bill.

It was Sumners who fronted the fight against the vicious Gavagan pro-lynching bill which was passed in the lower chamber and supplanted by the equally iniquitous Wagner measure in committee in the upper house.

During House consideration of the former, Representative Sumners cited the splendid record the South has made in curbing lynchings and showed the utter needlessness for federal invasion of local law enforcement fields. Figures of Dr. Monroe N. Work of Tuskeegee Institute were quoted in debate showing nine lynchings for the country in 1936, compared to 231 in 1892.

Now the Texan has advised the House that Dr. Work was in error. In a letter to the representative, he explained that one of the number listed, who disappeared in Arkansas and thus was counted as a "victim," had turned up in Chicago, hale and hearty.

That cut the total to eight.

"Or," as Sumners put it, "one for each 16,054,000 population."

Let Senators Wagner and Van Nuys produce as low a record for strike mob violence and gang killings.

Danville, Va., Register
July 21, 1937

WHERE WAS THE STATE?

The plea of those opposing enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law that the Southern states should be left free to eliminate the evil in their own good time fails to explain what the State of Florida was doing about lynching early yesterday morning when two Negro youths were taken out of the Tallahassee city jail within two blocks of the State Capitol and lynched by a mob of masked men.

Nor does the statement of Governor Fred P. Cone that "This was not a lynching. It was murder" make clear his conception of the difference between lynching and murder. Had he said, "This was a lynching and this was murder," every person who believes that the function of law is to punish the guilty and to protect the innocent would have agreed with him. But when he places murder in one category and lynching in another category, even though he says that this particular lynching was murder, he fails to make his distinction clear to those who believe that lynching is only a particularly cold-blooded, brutal, inhuman form of murder.

Like every other Southern governor who condemns a lynching in his own state, Governor Cone bitterly denounces the lynchers and promises to do everything possible to bring them to justice: "I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody. I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law." A few years ago the Governor of North Carolina was saying things like this following lynchings in Franklin and Pender counties. A few months ago the Governor of Mississippi was saying things like this following a brutal double-lynching in his state. But if these governors meant what they said, they proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that they were powerless to prevent lynchings and to punish lynchers; for they never succeeded in bringing the murderers to justice.

So the decent, law-abiding, fair-minded people of the South—who regard brutal slaughter in the name of racial prejudice as a shameful blot on the history of the Southern states and a grievous affront to the Southern people—again call on the Congress of the United States to save the South from its own worst enemies by passing a Federal anti-lynching bill.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
July 23, 1937

MUST ACT VIGOROUSLY

Only vigorous and effective steps on the part of Florida to bring to justice the participants in a double lynching occurring at Tallahassee Monday night will serve to remove the stigma placed on that State by this deed of violence. Apparently the authorities are making a thorough investigation of the deplorable affair, realizing the importance of such action, particularly with an objectionable anti-lynching bill pending in the United States Senate which Southern Senators have up to now succeeded in blocking. Very few lynchings have occurred this year and the Florida slayings served at once to arouse proponents of the federal anti-lynching measure to renewed efforts to jam their bill through. Southern States assert that they can best handle lynching cases within their respective borders without interference from federal sources, holding such interference an invasion of their rights. Now Florida has the opportunity to show the country it will deal sternly with crimes of this sort and is expected to do so.

RIGHTS FOR NEGRO URGED BY ETHRIDGE

Halt to Lynching or U. S. Action Advocated.

BLUE RIDGE, N. C., Aug. 5.—(AP)—Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, told the conference on education and race relations here tonight that "America owes the negro the stamping out of lynching and the protection of his person and his property from violence."

"If it requires federal marshals and federal deputies to prevent lynchings and punish lynchers in the south, then I am for federal marshals and deputies doing it," he added.

"To recognize the right of a state to handle the problem when lynchings continue is to recognize the right of a state to tolerate a violation of the fundamental tenet of every civilized people, whether democratic or monarchical: The right of man to live under law and to be deprived of life only by law.

Ethridge asserted that it was a matter of plain, simple justice to give the negro adequate public accommodations and resist legislative measures tending to deprive him of the right of a legitimate occupation.

"For our own protection, if not for the negro's; for the preservation of our own self-respect, for the preservation of our own ideal of democracy and civilization, we can in plain simple justice join with the negroes in their demands for a better distribution of public moneys—a distribution that is in accord with the ideals of a new economic deal in this country—a new deal dedicated to lifting the level of life regardless of race," he said.

Charlotte, N. C., News
August 3, 1937

Nothing Doing

There were mutterings among an Iredell County mob that found its marked victim, a Negro alleged rapist, removed to another jail, about coming over to Mecklenburg to see if he was held here. Nobody appeared, as far as was heard, and we are glad of it, for we wouldn't like Mecklenburg to be the scene of a lynching or an attempted lynching or even the threat of a lynching. But in a way we wish the mob or some part of it had shown up at either of the jails down East Trade way and demanded the person of the suspect.

For as long as the impulse to lynch persists, there will be lynchings or attempted lynchings; and the only way to eradicate this impulse is for officers of the law to behave as though lynching was as much of a crime as any that had gone before, which it is. Local officers, we believe, are not lacking in that regard for the safety of their prisoners or in the courage to assure it; and, for that matter, the local bastilles, notably that of the County, would not be easy for a mob to storm.

The South is very much on the lookout these days for other than a Federally-sponsored preventive for lynching. Some Southern States appear to have found the formula. Tennessee, for one, since that day in 1934 the national guard lined up in front of the court house at Shelbyville and fired into an oncoming mob, has had no lynchings and precious few attempts at lynching. We should have hated for Charlotte to play Shelbyville to Iredell County's would-be lynchers, but fools learn only by attending Experience's dear school.

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
August 6, 1937

BEST CURE FOR LYNCHING APPLIED

The Charlotte Observer

An impressive example of the proper way to deal with the problem of lynching has just been given the country by Sheriff John White Moore, Iredell county superior court and the State of North Carolina.

If every sheriff in every county in North Carolina and all other States followed the worthy example of Sheriff Moore and all other States followed the example set by North Carolina in this instance, the Nation would have no lynching problem and there would be no agitation in Congress for enactment of an anti-lynching law.

Within approximately 72 hours after a white farmer's wife in Iredell county was criminally assaulted by a negro living on the same farm, he was on the way to the penitentiary at Raleigh under death sentence to be executed September 10—and a threatened lynching had been averted.

The crime was committed Saturday afternoon. The sheriff arrested the negro shortly thereafter, but instead of placing him in the jail of his own county took precautions to carry him secretly to another jail in an unnamed county.

An hour or two after Sunday midnight a crowd of more than 100 men, said to have been from the neighborhood where the crime was committed, rode to Statesville in 25 or 30 automobiles and demanded of the sheriff that they be admitted to the jail to get the prisoner. The sheriff escorted a delegation of three of their number through the jail to satisfy them the negro was not there. Some of them indicated they would come to Charlotte to get him, but the crowd evidently deemed such a mission futile and did not make the trip.

The sheriff promptly informed Governor Hoey of the situation, and asked that State highway patrolmen be sent to Statesville Tuesday when the case was scheduled to be tried. Fifteen patrolmen were on the scene during the trial, under command of Lieutenant Fisher. Commander Chas. D. Farmer also was on hand. There was no attempt at disorder.

The defendant was given a fair trial, under circumstances assuring fairness and justice. The evidence was conclusive. The victim swore to the essential facts in the case, that she had been assaulted in the absence of her husband at her home by the negro whom she had known at least two years. The sheriff testified the defendant had admitted after his arrest that he had attacked the woman, but claimed he was under the influence of liquor at the time. Several other witnesses were heard.

The jury consumed but half an hour in its deliberations, before it returned a verdict of guilty; Judge Rousseau sentenced him to death and the prisoner soon was on his way to Raleigh, protected by the sheriff's officers and the State patrol.

No mob ever had a chance to get its hands on the prisoner from first to last, because Sheriff Moore was determined that neither his county nor the State should be disgraced by a lynching in Iredell. Of course the State authorities backed him up, as they always have done and will do when the sheriff takes proper action.

The story of the case has been detailed here because it is the simple and impressive story of how lynchings can be prevented anywhere in North Carolina, anywhere in the South or the Nation, when the officers of the law really wish to prevent them.

It is the story, too, of the application of the only medicine that is needed to stop the perennial introduction and debate of anti-lynching bills in Congress.

Sheriff Moore and North Carolina have shown the most effective and most desirable way to end lynchings.

Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
August 20, 1937

Punish The Lynchers

A vigorous editorial in the Covington Leader deplores the lynching of a Negro by a mob of six masked men Monday night. The newspaper demands that the mobsters be brought to justice. In the meantime the Tipton County Grand Jury, which made an investigation, recessed until September 1 after announcing that no worthwhile leads had been discovered.

The good people of Tipton County doubtless agree with its newspaper when it said, "Tipton County hangs its head in shame at this rape of law and order under which society operates."

"The grand jury's investigation should be thorough indeed," the editorial concluded, "vindicating the county through conviction of the guilty."

Why shouldn't the law deal sternly and fearlessly with the mob? The spirit of lynchers is in direct opposition to the law and order of which its vicious leaders pose as defenders. The mob is in defiance of civilization, a return to the law of the tooth and the claw, and an insult to a community in which it winds its crimson trail. To wink at and condone lynchers is to admit that law-abiding citizens are incapable of administering the law. By all means punish criminals which incite the mob, but let it be executions (when capital crimes are involved) and not murder. Lynching is murder, deliberate and premeditated, and by the same rule lynchers are murderers who, by their deed, scorn law and disgrace humanity.

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Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5546

Durham, N. C. Herald
April 15, 1937

MISSISSIPPI INSTANCE AND ANTI LYNCHING BILL

A Mississippi mob seized, tortured and killed two Negro prisoners Tuesday while in Washington members of the House debated the 1937 version of the annually offered federal anti-lynching bill.

Announcement of the Mississippi lynching prompted proponents of a federal law against lynching to up and say "there is proof that our position is sound." Opponents, of course, answered, "the good citizens of Mississippi did not participate in the lynching and do not condone lynchings. The lynching was an invasion of Mississippi law and Mississippi law will be invoked against the lynchers."

Well, the lynching was an invasion of Mississippi law all right and it is the promise of Judge Allen, the jurist holding court in the courthouse from whence the mob pulled their victims, and Governor White that "this terrible thing (the lynching) will be investigated by the grand jury." And there is the usual expression of regret from the sheriff, who did not feel disposed to protect his prisoners, and his vow to run down the mobsters. Maybe something besides official lament and wordy condemnations will come of the affair, but we have serious doubts.

It is anybody's guess as to whether or not federal anti-lynching legislation would restrain the emotions of potential mobsters and incline sheriffs to defend prisoners placed in their custody. No one can tell whether or not federal probes of lynching would succeed where state probes regularly fail. There is no substantial record to base any prediction on and all hands will have to admit that under our scheme federal and state officers of the law are picked from the same group in pretty much the same manner—through political maneuvers.

It can be said, though, that the gentlemen who argue against federal anti-lynching legislation on theory that the Mississippi lynching was not executed or condoned by "the good citizens of Mississippi" ignore one of the basic qualities of the lynch spirit. Lynching obtains largely because those citizens commonly classed as "good citizens," in their minds, consent to lynchings and limit their condemnation of lynchings to perfunctory statements uttered after the deed has been committed. And "the good citizens" find it convenient not to concern themselves about the punishment of those who participate in lynchings.

So long then as it can not be said that federal anti-lynching legislation would not increase the likelihood of running down lynchers, we refuse to cheer the southern senators and representatives who filibuster against federal anti-lynching legislation. And we certainly haven't any patience with their chatter about states' rights in connection with lynchings.

Burlington, N. C. Times
April 14, 1937

MISSISSIPPI SHOWS THE WAY

AS HIDEOUS in its moron stupidity and lustful fiendishness as the episode was, the lynching of two Negroes in Mississippi yesterday by a mob who seized the victims from the deputies taking them to prison came at a particularly propitious time in view of the fact that even now Congress has an anti-lynching measure before it.

The Negroes were not even accused of the raping of a white woman, the usual "excuse" for lynching in the South. They were accused of slaying a white merchant. And for the allegation of this crime—for no one can say definitely whether they were guilty or not—both men were burned at the stake.

What sort of people inhabit that State of Mississippi? Are they all creatures of the type that William Faulkner and Erskine Caldwell write about—degenerate, depraved, sadistic wretches, capable only of mob emotions, ignorant of all form of decency, society, law and order? It would seem so when a State has a crime as ghastly as this written against its far from clean record.

And yet it cannot be—there must be some citizens of decent impulses, of law and order minds, of right and truth and justice and fairness. Yet such citizens do nothing; by their very apathy they condone, they are in a sense parties to, such atavistic foulness as this dual lynching.

Senators and representatives from East and North and West propose an anti-lynching measure on a Federal scale, a law with teeth in it which will punish the officers from whom a prisoner is taken and lynched, punish all identified members of the mob before Federal courts and Federal juries, punish the counties in which such outrages occur by fining them $10,000 or more, the money to go to survivors of the lynching victim.

And Southern congressmen sit back on their haunches and yowl to high heaven that State's rights are being trampled on. State's rights, indeed! When will the State of Mississippi, and the States of Georgia and Alabama and Texas and the other States of the South which, year in and year out, add to the reputation of Dixie as a vast area of retrogression and degeneracy by their condoning of lynching, take appropriate State action?

Have they ever? . . . Answer that question and then ask yourself—very well, then, will they now? . . . Answer that question truthfully, and one solution—only one solution—is apparent to the sordid problem which too long has crucified decency and law in the South. The solution is, a Federal anti-lynching law.

Lynching is a problem which the Southern States, as separate entities, have proved utterly incapable of solving.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
April 15, 1937

Mississippi's Disgrace

While Congress was debating the Gavagan anti-lynching bill a Mississippi mob burned two negroes to death. Southern Democrats are fighting the Gavagan measure which would imprison peace officers who permit a prisoner to be lynched without making reasonable effort to prevent the crime. Members of mobs would be subjected to the same penalty. The bill also provides for the imposition of heavy fines.

Republicans and northern Democrats are supporting the Gavagan bill and the people of Mississippi, who committed the revolting murder of two criminals, gave them opportunity to declare that there is no way of preventing lynchings in the South except by prosecution of mob members and negligent or inefficient officers in federal courts. Mobs in the South have done nothing to prevent the crimes for which they lynch men. Mobs have done great injury to the South. They put the lawabiding people of the South in an unfair and unjust light.

Florence, S. C., News
April 15, 1937

THE MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

The torturing and lynching of two young Negroes by a mob of 300 white men in Mississippi came at a time when it will give impetus to the passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill which has created so much discussion. The terms of the bill would make any county liable in which a lynching occurred and would also punish any officer from whom a mob snatched a prisoner. It is generally conceived that the bill is aimed at the south, although, indeed, if the records be searched carefully, states to the north of us have nothing to be proud of in this respect. If you count the gangster killings as lynchings and what else can they be, the count will be on the side of the south. However this may be, we have always held that under no circumstances is lynching to be condoned.

Hattiesburg, Miss. American
April 16, 1937

WHAT MAKES A LYNCHING

The Duck Hill, Miss., lynching is now a part of the ignominy in Mississippi history. Nothing probably will ever be done about it. Little ever has been done about any lynching

But the occasional surge of a mob causes many persons to wonder just what causes a lynching.

Condemnation of mob violence has not entirely stopped such actions. Mobbing of prisoners has not stopped crimes which usually are advanced as the reasons for mob violence.

Therefore the situation devolves into a circle as vicious as any which ever confronted American citizens.

Passage of a federal anti-lynching law will not halt lynchings. The only agency that could counteract the law of "Judge Lynch" would be a regiment or so of G-Men. There is something about the name—G-Men—that terrifies men who resort to criminal methods to obtain any objective. American G-Men compare favorably now with the Canadian Mounted Police. They have a big something in common—so far they always have gotten their man.

But it is unlikely that the federal government will assign an G-Men to any lynching investigation.

Nobody argues that most victims of lynchings deserved less than capital punishment. The gravest evil connected with lynchings is the act of a group of persons in taking the law into their own hands Such acts nullify the law and constitute a sudden and savage revolt against the established regulations under which modern civilization functions.

But what makes a lynching? Is it dissatisfaction at the sometimes tedious operation of a court? Is it racial antipathy? Is it distrust of the capabilities of some elected officials to see that speedy justice is handed out to criminals?

Until the underlying cause of lynchings is discovered little permanent progress will be made toward solving this strange throwback to savagery.

It would be far better for citizens to generate mob psychology in demanding uniformly fair and stern enforcement of the law than it is for groups of them to take the law into their own hands.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib.
April 18, 1937

INVITING ACTION

The Mississippi mob that lynched two negroes last week could not have chosen a worse time, for even then a representative was preparing to put before the U. S. House a far-reaching federal anti-lynching measure.

The Mississippi incident served only to incite the backers of the measure, giving them ample fresh ammunition to hurl against the arguments of the Southern representatives opposing it.

The lynching problem is one that should be handled by the states. The Southern state governments have been making great progress toward curbing mob violence in that respect, and their citizens can not consider it a compliment to their success thus far to have the federal government ram a rights-stealing measure down their throats.

Yet, the more unfortunate lynching instances occur in the South, the stronger will be efforts in congress to pass the anti-lynching measure. The thing for the states to do is to redouble their efforts to blot out these violent happenings.

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
April 18, 1937

Motives for Southern Lynchings Held Same as in Witch Burnings

Dr. Raper Says Poorer Classes in South Are Responsible and Program Should Be Geared to Lifting Economic, Social Conditions.

By the Asso

ATLANTA, April 17.—Dr. Arthur Raper, research secretary for the Commission on Interracial Co-Operation, said today the present lynchings in the south "are motivated by the same mental attitude that cause the historical Massachusetts witch burnings."

"Lynchings," he said, "come out of the state of mind of white people much more than out of the crimes committed by Negroes, just as witches were burned in Boston, not because there were witches in Boston, but because of the state of mind of the people in Boston."

He said the use of a blow torch in a lynching this week in Mississippi demonstrated a new development: The impact of the mechanical age on a primitive method of social control."

Dr. Raper personally has investigated more than 100 lynching cases in the last nine years. He is author of the "Tragedy of Lynching," and "A Preface of Peasantry."

The typical southern lynching falls into two classifications, Dr. Raper said. First, by the "orderly" mob directed by community leaders; second, by the wild mob type.

"The first type is Bourbon in leadership and its principal object is to wreak vengeance on a particular individual," Dr. Raper said.

"The second type is proletarian and is distinctly directed against an entire class of people. It is distinguished by sadistic tortures of the victims."

He said the recent Mississippi lynching was a combination of the two types.

Dr. Raper said the typical lynching is "in the rural south, the mob victim is a Negro, the lynchers are native-born whites and the courts punish no one."

He said his studies show that a man in the 200 "most rural counties" of the south is in sixty times more danger of being lynched than is a man in the half-dozen most populous counties.

Dr. Raper declared lynchers seldom are punished because "punishment depends on the same peace officers and court officials whose impotence they demonstrated when they lynched."

He said the leading white people in some communities direct a lynch mob to maintain control of Negro labor.

"But it is the poorer rural whites, who live on about the same plane as the landless Negroes near by, to whom manhunts, mock trials and lynchings prove most attractive. The racial dogma is precious to them because it is proof they are superior.

"They get a chance to escape boredom of restricted lives. For a time they are people of importance—they assume the role of society's protectors; they flourish weapons; they hunt down the accused; they determine his guilt; they destroy him."

Dr. Raper said the most effective answer to the problem of lynching is to give the poorer rural areas of the south a greater share in the economic and cultural wealth of the nation. He declared:

"Any effective program must be geared to the task of lifting above the lynching level the poorest rural areas and the poorest elements in a yet larger region. In this task the county, state and federal governments all have responsibility.

"It is, of course, the part of wisdom that the contributions of each be so correlated that whatever responsibility can be borne locally shall be left there. At the same time, in no instance should the local community be permitted to lynch and then protect its lynchers from punishment, and thus violate the essential nature of the state and nation of which it is a part."

A federal intrusion into this field would tend to arouse local antagonism in a way that might retard rather than hasten the suppression of the lynching evil. It is seriously to be questioned whether it will promote the ends it is intended to serve and it will, in any event, set an unhappy precedent that will plague relations between Washington and the states for many years. Yet, unless the south makes more of a show than it has yet made of trying to fight lynching with its own weapons, this measure may easily be passed and incorporated in federal law.

For this reason as well as because it was a highly disgraceful exhibition, it is extremely desirable that the Tennessee authorities deal effectively with the mob which on Monday lynched a prisoner at Covington and with the sheriff who surrendered his prisoner to the mob without a fight. Tennessee is by no means at the top of the lynching list, but it is one of the states in which lynchings are of more or less regular occurrence. The state now has a chance in dealing with the Covington mobsters to show that it is determined to take itself out of the lynching column and end its long series of contributions to the south's ignominious record. Such a showing would not only serve to promote the ideals of law and order, to the maintenance of which Tennessee officeholders are sworn, but it would also provide a much-needed demonstration of willingness to deal with lynching independently of the federal government.

Tennessee and other lynching states ought to realize that lynching is an intolerable crime and that if they are going to do nothing about it themselves the way will be opened for objectionable intrusions of the federal law into their local affairs.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 21, 1937

The States and Lynching.

From the Baltimore Sun.

It would be fortunate if in the period before congress reassembles in January the southern states could initiate a vigorous local drive to put down lynching. The antilynching bill will be a special order in the senate shortly after the next session opens. It has already passed the house. It will, unless all indications fail, command a substantial support in the senate. The one thing that would be most likely to prevent a favorable vote in the senate would be a determined stand by the local authorities in the south against the disgraceful social crime of lynching to curb which the bill now before congress would invoke federal authority.

This bill is admirable in its intentions, but open to grave question on the score of method. It seeks to inject federal authority into a distinctly local police matter.

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Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5547

Asheville, N. C., Times
April 8, 1937

Leave It To The States

IF THE Congress of the United States could pass a clearly constitutional law that gave genuine assurance of ending lynching, most thoughtful Southerners would be prepared to accept, if not to approve, such an exercise of Federal authority.

For no thoughtful Southerner has any defense for lynching. He recognizes it for what it is—a reversion to barbarism. He readily concedes that such occasional outbreaks of extreme lawlessness are a reproach to this section and that all the appropriate powers of constituted authority should be exercised in preventing them and in punishing persons who may commit such crimes.

There is no assurance, however, that such a law will discourage lynching. There is strong reason for arguing even that it may have the contrary effect.

Lynching is fundamentally a local crime. It is the tragic consequence of a breakdown in local government. It is in no wise interstate in its character or in its manifestations.

Gratifying progress has been made in recent years in decreasing such barbarisms. Such progress has been made possible through improved race relationships and through a growing sense of responsibility on the part of the local officials and of local public sentiment.

Since the problem is essentially local in its character and manifestations, it should be left with the local communities for its solution. The transference of the responsibility or any part of the responsibility to the already overladened Federal government may not better matters. It is altogether possible that it may endanger the progress that is being made slowly but definitely.

Danville, Va., Bee
April 14, 1937

A Clear Call For Action

The lynching of two negroes by an unmasked Mississippi mob near Winona yesterday will be answered by renewed pressure to the federal anti-lynching bill, the fate of which has been uncertain. The very nature of the cruelty practiced by one hundred men dealing with two negroes held for murder will bring a revulsion more than likely to be translated into swift passage. No more inhuman treatment was ever revealed at a lynching bee than strapping the victims to a tree and then burning them to death by degrees by spraying a blowtorch flame across their bodies until they were slowly burned to death in such agony that defies description.

The lynching ran true to form. The mob was unmasked, yet the local deputies say that they were "overpowered" and did not "recognize" any of them. The negroes on the advice of counsel had pleaded not guilty to the murder indictment and their case therefore had not been presented to a jury or submitted to the processes of law.

Congress will feel impelled now to force passage of the anti-lynching measure which holds sheriffs and deputies to a greater degree of responsibility than at present. They and those identified as mob members will be dealt with in the federal courts for failure to do their full duty and counties in which lynchings occur will be penalized heavily sums of money being ordered paid to the families of lynched victims.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
April 19, 1937

LYNCHING THE CONSTITUTION

THE deplorable lynchings of two negroes by a mob of stupid illiterates in Mississippi is comparable in its ultimates to the deplorable lynching of the United States constitution by a mob of stupid lawmakers in the house of representatives.

The Mississippi lynchers did violence to the civil law, bringing disgrace upon their state, while the equally excited mob in the house of representatives did gross violence to the fundamental law of the land. In one respect the latter were worse than the Mississippi lynchers because they had taken a most solemn oath to uphold the constitution which they proceeded to lynch upon the floor.

Moreover, these congressional lynchers of the constitution knew what they were about. They knew it not only because they were warned of the illegal nature of what they were doing, but, because they are men of education; they possessed an intellectual knowledge of the nature of the violation they were committing.

As Senator Borah has pointed out, the anti-lynch bill that has been given approval is a flagrant violation of the constitution. It seeks to give to the general government certain privileges that are clearly prohibited and which it has no more right to exercise than it has to tell the individual citizen what time he shall arise in the morning and retire at night.

The men voting for it knew also that the Supreme court as now constituted, would throw it into the scrap-heap but they ignored this and passed the act upon the theory that the court shortly is to be enlarged and that the new court, created to carry out legislative purposes instead of carrying out the provisions of the constitution, would place the stamp of approval upon it because of expediency and not because of its legality.

This makes vivid the warning of Senator Glass that an enlarged Supreme court carries a threat to the very civilization of the South, and lends point to the grave warning of Congressman M. C. Tarver, of the seventh Georgia district, that it threatens not only the election laws of the South but points to the destruction of those laws under which necessary segregation is practiced in the South.

It is a first step in a crusade to destroy those laws under which whites and blacks are separated in schools, in hotels, in restaurants, upon trains and elsewhere, and throw them all together as has been done in the North. In sum, it is a movement to recreate in the South the conditions of a half-century ago. And why? Because to do these things please certain negroes in certain states where the negroes hold the balance of political power.

Southern civilization is to be bartered for negro votes in doubtful states. That is the sum of it, as Senator Glass has seen, as Congressman Tarver has seen, and as has become clear to many other Southerners who are capable of seeing beyond the ends of their noses.

And one of the tragic phases of the situation is that no thought is being taken of the negroes in the South. What they may suffer through the recreation of the intolerable conditions of a half-century ago enters not into the accounting of these white politicians who fawn at the feet of negro politicians and who seek to use both the whites and the blacks in the South as pawns in the survey game of fence-building for individual benefit.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib.
April 18, 1937

THAT MUCH NEARER

The lynching of two negroes by a Mississippi mob this week, was entirely uncalled for, and every man who participated in the outrage should be arrested, tried and convicted and severely punished. It was just a cold-blooded murder of men already in the hands of the law, and helpless in the hands of a blood thirsty and uncontrollable mob. While we are unable to see how a national anti-lynching law might stop or prevent a single lynching, we do see how such acts as was pulled off in Mississippi this week, will bring a national anti-lynching law just that much nearer.—Yorkville Enquirer.

Tupelo, Miss. News
April 15, 1937

SHERIFF SAYS IT WAS ORDERLY MOB

Sheriff E. E. Wright of Winona, who had custody of the two negroes when they were snatched by a mob and lynched, said: "It was a most unexpected but orderly mob."

Sheriff Wright, you are all wet.

No mob is orderly.

Men engaged in mob action are keyed to a high point. They stop at nothing.

Certainly there was nothing orderly in the burning at stake of two negroes.

Orderly is not the word, Sheriff Wright. You mean dastardly.

Tupelo, Miss. News
April 15, 1937

IT SHOULD BE PROBED.

Mississippi is coming in for all sorts of adverse publicity as result of the lynching of two negroes, accused in the murder of a Duck Hill merchant.

"As dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise," wired Chairman Sumners of the House Judiciary committee.

The Mississippi Women's Society for the Prevention of lynching deplored the lynchings.

We all stand agreed that it was horrible, that the law should have been allowed to take its course.

It was the first lynching in the Magnolia State in 15 months.

A good record has been besmerched.

Governor White has ordered a thorough investigation.

This cannabalistic thing should be probed.

It was ghastly and unbelievable.

THIS MORNING

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES II.

Constitution

"Thou'dst have, great Glamis, that which cries, 'Thus must thou do if thou have it!'"

Is a federal law the only way to have done with the crime of lynching? Is it a way at all? If it is a way, and an only way, then no consideration of so-called "states' rights" should prevent its enactment. Those who truly love the principle of states' rights do not impeach it by invoking it when it won't work, by relying upon it in cases where states alone are incapable of satisfactory action and where a want of action will thwart the progress or limit the protection of the American people. They do not insist upon it, for example, in the matter of certain social controls which modern economics have made necessary and which cannot be exercised by states individually without crippling those states in economic competition with other states.

* * *

The control of lynching, of course, is not in this category. One state can act against lynchers without regard to what other states do. It is not an interstate matter in the sense of affecting the relations between states. The only excuse for federal action, therefore, is that state action is inadequate and that lynching can be wiped out in no other way. It is, to our way of thinking, an acceptable excuse—if the facts upon which it is predicated are correct.

* * *

But we do not think the facts correct. We do not believe federal law is the only way to stop lynching, and we do not even believe it is a way at all. Not the law proposed, at any rate. If mere law would do the thing, it might have been accomplished already. Lynching is murder, and murder is a crime in every state of the union. There is ample law to punish those responsible in lynching cases, and generally there is ample evidence, too. The failure to punish results from a failure of local public opinion to condemn, to insist upon application of the law. Until this local public opinion is changed, no law—federal or state—is going to be enforced.

* * *

Sympathize as we do with the intent and cause of those behind the proposed federal law, and suspicious as we have learned to be of many who cry "states' rights" today, when the only right they really want is their own to get away with something they should not, we are persuaded that the law proposed is childlike in its utter ineffectuality and that, this being the case, it is not an excuse for another encroachment upon the rights of the states.

* * *

As Luther Patrick, Alabama's homespun philosopher - congressman, is pointing out, the provision of a penitentiary sentence for any sheriff who allows a prisoner to be taken from him and lynched is impractical, especially in that "any sheriff who considers his own welfare might make it a point not to capture a fugitive threatened with lynching, fearing being overpowered and the prisoner taken." So is the provision for a $10,000 penalty upon the county in which the lynching occurs, since more often than not the lynchers come from some other county. Application of such provisions as these would be unfair as they would be difficult.

* * *

Federal law is not the only way, and not a way at all. The way is in state law, in the development of officials and a public opinion that will get existing state laws enforced and provide new laws where existing ones are lacking. There is no doubt of the fact that southern public opinion against lynching has grown mightily in recent years and that it is responsible for the better record of the south. In that opinion is the real and only solution. Develop it only a little more and it will command the respect of sheriffs, governors, and of the blood-lust-being, self-anointed morons who lynch.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
May 21, 1937

A Negro farm hand disappeared last summer from an Arkansas plantation. Radical labor agitators and communists charged that he had been murdered by white plantation owners. They planned a funeral for the missing man, hoping to make the ceremony an occasion for a mass uprising of farm workers. The funeral was prohibited. A man and a woman who had been engaged in organizing a farm tenant union exhibited bruises on their bodies which they said had been inflicted by a mob. Now the missing Negro has been found alive in Chicago. Thus another Southern "tragedy" has been exposed, due to the foresight of Arkansas officers who refused to believe all the wild tales that radical agitators put into circulation.

Savannah, Ga., Press
May 25, 1937

REFLECTS ON DECATUR COUNTY.

Bainbridge has very little to its credit in having taken away from a negro undertaker the body of a negro who had committed crimes against two women and had been shot and killed by the arresting officers. The law had been avenged in the killing of the negro by officers of the law. The body had been turned over to an undertaker for interment. While the remains were in the undertaker's rooms a mob of 100 men entered and took the body away. It was dragged around the public square at Bainbridge, says an Associated Press report, and later carried to a negro baseball park and burned.

All of this was a performance which we are sure the better people of Bainbridge will regret. It is not to the credit of Bainbridge or Decatur county that such an event should take place within their borders.

The negro deserved death for the crimes he had committed. He feared a trial and made an effort to escape. The sheriff's force killed him in order to capture him and to prevent his getting away. After he was dead the law had been thoroughly avenged.

The further mutilation of the body and its disposition on a funeral pyre is a reflection upon the community that permitted it to take place.

Columbia, S. C. Record
August 20, 1937

Tennessee's Contribution.

Tennessee's lynching was like all lynchings a useless lynching. It accomplished nothing save to give another fillip to the movement for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law, now scheduled for passage early next year.

And like most lynchings it was the result of the failure of Tennessee authorities to exercise even ordinary precautions. The "mob," which "overpowered" Sheriff W. J. Vaughan and carried off his 35-year-old negro prisoner to be strung up to a bridge and riddled with bullets, consisted of only six persons, by the sheriff's own estimate. And a few determined officers—one determined to risk his life, if need be, and the lives of the lynchers might have been enough—could easily have protected the prisoner, insured him the trial the constitution "guarantees" him. And trouble—the negro was charged with the murder of the Mason Tenn. city marshal—might even have been anticipated and guarded against.

But elementary precautions were not taken and the sheriff offered no effective resistance; his pistol taken from him by the "mob" was used to kill the negro instead of to protect him. And so Tennessee adds its name to the list of states which this year have done their part to make the enactment of the federal anti-lynching law easier.

White Press, Southern.

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Discussion.

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Sarasota, Fla., Herald
July 23, 1937

STATE PRESS ON LYNCHING

There is complete unanimity among Florida editors as to the proper definitation of the lynching of two young negroes at Tallahassee by four masked men. It was "premeditated murder," says the Lakeland Ledger; "deliberate murder," says the Tampa Tribune. As many dailies as have commented on the crime, with the exception of the Tallahassee Democrat, which considered it a rather more gentlemanly affair than such parties usually are, unite in calling it murder and concede no extenuating circumstance in its perpetration.

On the contrary, all agree, as fair newspapers must, that lynching under any guise, is never justifiable, but places a stigma upon a state and dishonor upon a community. The Clearwater Sun, going into this aspect of the crime, declares the Tallahassee "atrocity" a "hideous disgrace to the state," and adds, "a state's good name and its ability to enforce its laws and provide security are its greatest assets. A state lacking these requisites is its own worst enemy;" the inference being that as long as the men who committed this crime go unpunished Florida will be under a cloud, for the Sun adds: "Governor Cone appreciates this when he declares that the murderers must be found and punished."

The Miami News, academically but nonetheless accurately, comments that "as long as men arrogate to themselves the functions of prosecutors, judges and executioners, there is no law." Even San Francisco, after the reign of the vigilantes, had to concede this fact and return to orderly administration of the law.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
August 3, 1937

MOB SPIRIT NOT ENTIRELY DORMANT

BECAUSE NORTH CAROLINA has distinguished itself, in company with Virginia and Tennessee, in recent years by its record of no lynchings, perhaps the people of the State have been lulled to a sense of false security. All of which must have been dissipated by the rude awakening certain events occurring near Statesville the other day afforded.

A mob gathered quite suddenly upon hearing the news that a Negro suspect in the assault on a white woman in another county had been jailed in Iredell county prison. The members converged on the jail in the accepted fashion of mobs — truculent, demanding, brave in their numbers and their supposed anonymity.

And they got just exactly nowhere. The sheriff, with a foresight worthy of the highest praise, had either got wind of the mob's activity, or knew his Iredell county's latest mob spirit better than he did North Carolina's supposed inviolable record of no lynchings. Anyway, he did the practical thing that almost undoubtedly saved the State either the stain of a lynching, or a gun and tear gas battle between officers and mobsters over the custody of the prisoner. He had moved his prisoner already to a prison in another and unnamed county.

And, as the News and Observer remarks in philosophical postlude, those most appreciative of the sound judgment displayed by the sheriff should be the would-be lynchers themselves.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 22, 1937

Lynching In The Shadow Of Florida's Capitol

There is something symbolical in the fact that these Florida lynchers went about their dastardly business in the shadow of the state's Capitol. The lynching victims were taken to jail only two blocks from the Capitol building and were put to death just a few miles from the center of Florida's government.

Just as this act was perpetrated near the heart of Florida's government, so also lynching strikes at the heart of orderly government. The right of every person, regardless of race, creed, color or suspected crime, to a legal trial is a foundation stone for a free people. And lynchers who deny that right are undermining that central stone.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
July 21, 1937

Florida Lynchings

The lynching of two negroes in Florida Monday night was unfortunate.

The display of mob violence was the first reported in Florida this year and was the first double lynching occurring there in several years.

Those put to death were accused of attacting and wounding a police officer at Tallahassee, but regardless of the circumstances involved, they were charges of the state and were entitled to a fair and impartial trial.

The constitution guarantees to every person the right of trial by jury and there are no exceptions. Those who take the law into their own hands to mete out punishment are equally as guilty as those who they punish.

There is no place for lynchings or mob violence in our scheme of life and government and the lynchings in Florida make it a duty of the state to ferret out the mob and mete out punishment to its members commeasurate with the crime of which they stand accused.

Punishing the mobsters is the only means by which we can effectively discourage lynchings and eliminate this evil.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
August 3, 1937

Lynching And State Rights.

Some two months ago a mob took two Negroes from jail in a Mississippi town, carried them into the country, tied them to trees and seared their flesh with a blow-torch. One of the Negroes died under the torture and the other was shot to death. As we recall, neither of these victims of mob brutality was accused of a capital crime.

The State's Attorney-General of Mississippi, acting under instructions from the Governor, instituted impeachment proceedings against the Sheriff of the county in which this outrage was committed, charging him with neglect of duty, cowardly conduct, and perhaps connivance with the mobsters. The officer was acquitted but, although he stated that he recognized some of the members of the mob, nothing further has been done.

Some two weeks since a mob took two Negroes from jail in Florida, carried them into the country and shot them to death. Neither of them had committed a crime for which death is or should be the penalty. The Sheriff seemed not to know much about the incident or to be seriously disturbed by it. The Governor of Florida said the killing of these Negroes was not a lynching, but murder, but so far as known no effort has been made to find the lynchers or murderers.

A dispatch from Statesville, North Carolina, says a crowd of about 125 white men rode into that town in thirty automobiles early yesterday, surrounded the county jail, and demanded that Sheriff John White Moore turn over a Negro prisoner accused of assaulting a white woman. The crowd disbanded after the Sheriff took three of the men inside the jail and convinced them that the prisoner they wanted was not there. He had been spirited away to an undisclosed jail.

A lynching was averted at Statesville because precautionary measures had been taken for the protection of the prisoner sought by the mob. Probably most mob murders could be averted in the same way. Despite the fact that any Negro arrested for almost any offense in some sections of the South is in danger of the mob, the responsible police authorities do not take steps to safeguard the lives of such prisoners and give them their day in court. Yet that is a part of their sworn duty.

The Senate has before it an anti-lynching bill which has already passed the House. Opposition to this measure comes mostly from Senators and Representatives from the South, the section of country in which nearly all of the mob murders occur and which should welcome Federal aid in the suppression of mob lawlessness. Prospects now are that legislative action on this bill will not be completed by a Congress confronted with other important measures and impatient to adjourn, but there also are prospects that if it fails of passage at this session it will be passed at the next session.

Protests that a Federal anti-lynching law would infringe the rights of the States have ceased to be impressive in the face of continued mob outrages and the failure of the States to uphold their laws and punish those crimes.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 30, 1937

Lynch Lawlessness

THIS IS from the Southern Christian Advocate, state Methodist ournal, published in Columbia:

Following hard upon the announcement that the first half of 1937 had recorded four lynchings in the country, all four negro victims and all four in the South, came the Florida outrage of ten days ago. This double lynching, or "murder" as Governor Cone of that state termed it, was the double slaying of two negro youths who were alleged to have stabbed a policeman. The jail delivery transpiring as it did within four blocks of the state capitol, is a harrowing insult to constituted authority. There is never any excuse for mob violence in a land where one's protection is committed to legal processes. This Florida debacle reveals a long road of Christianizing ahead of us in our own land.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
July 22, 1937

Florida had a double lynching this week for what seemed very insufficient provocation, as is so frequently the case. While lynchings in the South have shown a marked decrease from a few years ago, there are still entirely too many, if the Southern States hope to resist the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law successfully much longer. The Governor of Florida has ordered the usual investigation but it's safe to assume that nothing will come of it.

Union, S. C., Times
July 27, 1937

PICKING ON THE SOUTH

When our Democratic congress ceases to inject periodically a bill to prohibit lynching, we will have some respect for that august body. Everybody with a reasonable amount of sense knows that the incentive behind each such attempt is to stab the South. And it is not going to stop lynchings, no matter how many such bills pass. It is safe to say that today here would be less of lynching and more of lawful behaviour on the part of the people of the South than there is today were there less of the nagging, spiteful injection of this quesion of Northern politicians. Everybody knows the South was making progress in overcoming the evil of lynch law, doing this by working out its own salvation. You don't hear of any bill introduced by these reformers to put down thug rule and racketeering and wholesale murder that is so often revealed in the great centers of population. And this for the reason that it is held a fixed principle of government that in such matters each state should be allowed to work out its own destiny.

Ocala, Fla., Evening Star
July 23, 1937

ANOTHER BLACK MARK

"This was not a lynching. It was murder. I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of carelessness here by somebody. I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

Such was the comment of Governor Fred P. Cone on the recent Tallahassee lynching. He has expressed the sentiments of many Floridians, who realize a black mark has been chalked up against this state because of the inexcusable "atrocity" that has occurred almost within the shadow of the state capitol.

There was no excuse for the inhuman actions of the Tallahassee "mob" of four men who went to the county jail, overpowered the officer on duty, obtained the keys to the cell blocks, removed two young negroes awaiting trial for a murderous attack on a policeman, took them out of town a short distance and riddled their bodies with bullets.

Florida, not the four men involved directly in the crime, will be blamed for the lynching of these black boys, who, in due time, would have been tried and convicted of the crime with which they were charged.

Florida, not members of the "mob" involved, will be held up before the nation in criticism when the congress comes again to debate passage of the anti-lynching bill now before that body. Every time anti-lynching legislation comes before congress the statement is made, by southerners, that bills to penalize the taxpayers of a community where a lynching occurs are directed at the south. Florida congressmen cannot defend such charges in the name of the south when their state condones such lawlessness as has just occurred at its state capital.

Floridians should uphold the hands of their governor in his evident determination to make a thorough investigation of the Tallahassee lynching and bring those responsible to justice.

Kingsport, Tenn. Times
August 22, 1937

A DISGRACEFUL BLOT

Murder is ever an abhorrent crime, and the mere mention of it is loathesome in the extreme. It implies all that is evil and unholy, and with startling abrubtness forces us to face the mysteries of life and death. Death is the inevitable, unavoidable thing which we know all things human must face. It is to this end we live; that we may meet it with a degree of fortitude and courage. Thus when life is suddenly terminated by an act of violence, we are shocked by the evil passions which cut a life short; and we suddenly face the fact that our own life strand is as fragile and uncertain.

Murder is an ugly, sordid affair, which may be divided into two classes—that is premeditated murder, and a murder of passion. The latter named may be understood although not condoned, but the first passes almost beyond the ken of human understanding. It is into this latter class falls the murder in Tipton County of this state, which occurred Monday night, August 16. At that time six masked men met Sheriff W. J. Vaughn just eight miles out of Covington on his return trip from Memphis with a Negro prisoner, Albert Gooden, and murdered the prisoner. His bullet-ridden body with a rope around the neck was found hours later, face downward in a creek.

The prisoner, himself, was to be arraigned on a murder charge the following morning. He was accused of shooting Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason, Tennessee, last July 17 during a raid on a dice game, and he would probably have been sentenced to death. His own crime of passion, however, does not alter the fact that six men planned and executed the prisoner's death, and for such murder they should, if possible, be brought to trial and sentenced as any other criminals. Unfortunately their apprehension is uncertain, since the Sheriff states he was not able to recognize any one of the murderers, nor did he see the license of the car they were using. Despite lack of clues, however, Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist has made an impassioned plea before the grand jury for a relentless search for members of the first lynch mob in Tipton County since the war between the states. Judge Baptist puts it mildly when he describes it as "one of the most horrible and disgraceful crimes in the history of the county."

In the first place it is extremely doubtful if the members of the mob were even friends of the dead Marshal. In all probability they are a bunch of hoodlums who, lusting for bloodshed and violence, sought to excuse crime and appease conscience by an appearance of justification. They didn't even have the courage of their own convictions, apparently, since they appeared masked. They were cowards of the worst type as they were fully cognizant of the fact that their victim didn't even have a fighting chance. In addition to being unarmed, he was manacled. He had no more chance of escaping his assassins than a rabbit surrounded by a pack of ravenous wolves.

In the second place the question of color distinction rears its ugly head. Had the prisoner been a white man would he have received the same treatment at the hands of this mongrel mob? The strench of the truth that the lower the strata of a white person the louder he howls about color distinction so often permeates the atmosphere and pathetically mars the perfection of an otherwise pleasant relationship.

The only way to control such an element in any community is by fear of the consequences—fear for the safety of their own cowardly necks.

Thus for the safety of those, not only in Tipton county, but any with whom these six murderers may come in contact, every effort should be made to expedite their apprehension. Having tasted blood and escaped unscathed, they may experience the urge to do murder again.

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Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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North Emporia, Va. Messenger
March 5, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE.

For a number of years Tuskegee Institute has been tabulating the returns of lynching and it is pleasing to observe that President F. D. Patterson reports that there has been a decline in mob action every decade since 1887.

Dr. Patterson gives three reasons for the decline and they are, we believe, sound observations. The first is the disappearance of frontier characteristics in the South; the breaking down of isolation in the South through the development of rural free delivery, increased communication facilities; paved roads and radio; the third, "increased agitation within the South against lynching."

While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynching was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the Negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Bremen, Ga., Gateway
March 11, 1937

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West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
March 27, 1937

PROPER CHANNELS

A survey published a short time ago revealed that lynchings had declined remarkably during the past year.

Several months ago, night-riding members of the Midwestern Black Legion were brought to book by the law.

In Pennsylvania, a State trooper has been found guilty of the "third degree" murder of a hotel man.

These facts are all totally unrelated and yet, taken together, perhaps they are indicative of one thing.

Perhaps they reveal that people, in general, are coming more and more to realize that infractions against law and order must be handled only through the proper channels of justice; that citizens cannot take the law into their own hands no matter how well such a course seems justified.

Lynching—Plain Talk

The torture lynching of two negroes at Duck Hill, Miss., is an unspeakable crime. Lynching at law is murder. But mob murder is often more than murder, it represents a relapse into a psychic state that it is an insult to primitive man to call savagery.

Every responsible official of Mississippi is put on the spot by this crime. It must be investigated and followed by the indictment and prosecution of the offenders, or the state will suffer a terrific loss of face. Coming on the heels of a steady decline in the number of lynchings, the crime at Duck Hill is a crime against the whole south.

* * *

The tendency of mobs to revert to torture and sadistic orgy is age-old and world-wide. In "The Crowd," Gustave Le Bon more than a generation ago explained that in a mob the individual intellect and individuality is dormant, superseded for the time being by the collective mob mind, which represents the lowest common denominator of human mentality.

Such a relapse evidently occurred at Duck Hill, where the use of a blow torch in torture rivaled the barbaric mutilations in the massacre of nonunion miners at Herrin, Ill., a few years ago. The blow torch as an instrument of torture has not yet been adopted by the degenerate gangsters of New York, who still prefer slowly to hack their victims with cold steel. Burning with cigar butts used to be a routine incident of being "taken for a ride" in the environs of Chicago, but the blow torch seems to be something new in sadistic technology.

* * *

Coming at a time when anti-lynching bills are up in Congress, the Duck Hill lynching may tip the balance and lead to the enactment of an anti-lynching law, despite the fact that the circumstances of the Duck Hill lynching prove the impotence of such laws to prevent lynching. The theory of anti-lynching laws is twofold. Pecuniary penalties imposed on communities for lynchings are supposed to restrain the lynching urge. But what would a consideration like that have amounted to in the case of the infuriated mob at Duck Hill. The other part of the theory of anti-lynching laws is that by transferring the investigation of lynchings and the trial of offenders to outside tribunals such as federal courts, punishment can be had regardless of local public opinion or political pull. History is emphatic as to the fallacy of that. So far as the south is concerned, lynching got its greatest impetus at a time when military rule and federal force laws were in full flower, and in the nineties of the last century when the Lodge force bill was being pressed in Congress, lynching was rampant. In northern states where there are laws providing for the recovery of damages from counties and local communities by relatives of mob victims there have been most atrocious mob murders.

* * *

Sincere purpose to abate lynchings is almost entirely absent from the present propaganda for a federal anti-lynching law. Back of that movement—as every literate adult knows—are four elements.

(1) The remnant of the old Republican party machine seeking desperately to recover the negro vote in the northern states, through which it ruled the nation from the election of 1868, in which that vote first swung the balance.

(2) The Democratic political machines in big cities bidding against the G. O. P. for the same bloc vote.

(3) The Communist groups who have sought for more than 15 years to stir up racial strife north and south.

(4) The strangely assorted groups of psychopaths who take a morbid interest in lynchings and in characteristic crimes that lead to lynchings. These groups include many queer fish and epicene neurotics who swim in the stagnant social pools which have collected back of some of the great foundations and other endowments set up by doddering old men and women who had more money than sense.

The latter elements are not motivated at all by any desire to abate lynchings. The heavily financed propaganda against the social order of the south which was manifested in the Scottsboro case in Alabama and in the Herndon case in Atlanta are a dead giveaway as to that. An orderly trial in the south stirs up the degenerate martyr complexes of these people as much as a lynching.

In view of the south baiting that accompanies all the agitation for federal anti-lynching laws it is incumbent upon southern senators and representatives to make these facts clear upon the floors of the Houses of Congress, and to demand that any extension of federal police powers be made to cover the gang mobsters of the city as well as the rural mob.

A Lynching Embarrasses

The lynching of two Negroes at Winona, Miss., Tuesday by a mob of white men has placed in an embarrasing position every member of Congress who opposes enaction of a Federal anti-lynching law. The degree of that embarrassment and what it may lead to is reflected in the unprecedented action of Chairman Sumners, of the House judiciary committee, who Wednesday addressed to Gov. [illegible] White, of Mississippi, a telegram protesting against "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutality execute." . . . A note of warning is discernible in these words of Representative Sumners:

"It (the crime) will be seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the states to govern. As one Southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction, and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact cannot escape in effect from becoming an accessory after the fact unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

If Governor White replies to Chairman Sumners by bringing "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment" he will provide at least a basis for the contention that Federal action in such cases is not necessary. A reasonable basis for that contention does not now exist. The repetition of lynchings is causing more and more people in this section to believe that such instances of brutality and terrorism should be regarded, not as a violation of the laws of a state, but as a crime against society itself and subject to prosecution under Federal laws.—Chattanooga Times.

THE MISSISSIPPI BLOW

Mississippi's blow torches are blowing a federal anti-lynching bill through Congress at breakneck speed. A beast with a blow torch in his hand can make the defenders of local self-government more ridiculous than all of the [illegible] philosophers of history.

There were 20 persons lynched in the United States in 1935 according to the Tuskegee Institute and 53 instances in which officers prevented lynching.

Dixie Lynchings Likened To Burning of Witches

Same Mental Attitude Motivated Both Crimes, Dr. Arthur Raper Declares; Introduction of Blow Torch in Mississippi Found Modern Sadistic Feature

ATLANTA, April 17 (AP)—Dr. Arthur Raper, research secretary for the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, said today the present lynchings in the south "are motivated by the same mental attitude that caused the historical Massachusetts witch hangings."

"Lynchings," he said, "come out of the state of mind of white people much more than out of the crimes committeed by Negroes, just as witches were burned in Boston not because there were witches in Boston but because of the state of mind of the people of Boston."

He said the use of a blow torch in a lynching this week in Mississippi demonstrated a new development: the impact of the mechanical age on a primitive method of social control."

Dr. Raper personally has investigated more than 100 lynching cases in the last nine years. He is author of the Tragedy of Lynching and A Preface to Peasantry.

The typical southern lynching falls into two classifications, Dr. Raper said. First, by the "orderly" mob directed by community leaders; second, by the wild mob type.

Sadistic Tortures Cited

"The first type is Bourbon in leadership and its principal object is to wreak vengeance on a particular individual," Dr. Raper said.

"The second type is proletarian and is distinctly directed against an entire class of people. It is distinguished by sadistic tortures of the victims."

He said the recent Mississippi lynching was a combination of the two types.

Dr. Raper said the typical lynching is "in the rural south, the mob victim is a Negro, the lynchers are native-born whites, and the courts punish no one."

He said his studies show that a man in the 200 "most rural counties" of the south is in 60 times more danger of being lynched than is a man in the half dozen most populous counties.

Dr. Raper declared lynchers seldom are punished because punishment depends on the same peace officers and court officials whose impotence they demonstrated when they lynched."

He said the leading white people in some communities direct a lynch mob to maintain control of Negro labor.

Poorer Whites Attracted

"But it is the poorer rural whites, who live on about the same plane as the landless Negroes near-by, to whom man-hunts, mock trials and lynchings prove most attractive. The racial dogma is precious to them because it is proof they are superior.

"They get a chance to escape boredom of restricted lives. For a time they are people of importance—they assume the role of society's protectors; they flourish weapons; they hunt down the accused; they determine his guilt; they destroy him."

Dr. Raper said the most effective answer to the problem of lynching is to give the poorer rural areas of the south a greater share in the economic and cultural wealth of the nation. He declared:

"Any effective program must be geared to the task of lifting above the lynching level the poorest rural areas and the poorest elements in a yet larger region. In this task, the county, state and federal governments all have responsibility.

"It is, of course, the part of wisdom that the contributions of each be so correlated that whatever responsibility can be borne locally shall be left there. At the same time, in no instance should the local community be permitted to lynch and then protect its lynchers from punishment, and thus violate the essential nature of the state and nation of which it is a part."

Clifton Forge, Va., Review
April 5, 1937

THAT LYNCHBURG TRAGEDY.

It has been a long time since such a gruesome tragedy was committed in Virginia similar to the one which took place in Lynchburg the latter part of last week. The fact is, it is next to impossible to conceive that a husband and father would so far forget himself as to slash the throats of his wife and son and use the same weapon in an attempt to end his own existence. Some idea can be formed as to the scene that was presented to the officers who investigated this affair by the statement of one of them who said that he had never been called upon to witness anything like it since his service as a soldier in the world war in France. William E. Craighead, who is alleged to have killed his wife and son and who did his best to commit suicide, stood well in Lynchburg and his friends were shocked when advised of what actually had taken place. Quite naturally he cannot plead justification for his deed, because if dissatisfied with his domestic life it was incumbent upon him to go his way and leave his wife and boy to choose their way in life. Time and again we have stated in these columns that no man can excuse himself for taking the life of a defenseless woman and this applies with equal force to the case in Lynchburg. Just about a week ago there was a triple tragedy in the town of Galax, but it in nowise compared with this latest happening in the Hill City. To be perfectly candid, we cannot find words to adequately express our feelings in the premises and all that it is possible to say is that we are in hopes that nothing like it will ever occur in Virginia again.

The Review has never been in sympathy with the custom followed by certain men in authority relative releasing persons charged with a crime with the proviso that they leave the community or State in which they were convicted. Quite recently Governor Browning, of Tennessee, granted a pardon to a man serving a term for murder and stipulated that the recipient of his clemency leave the Volunteer State at once. If the man set free by Governor Browning was entitled to his freedom he should have been permitted to remain in Tennessee instead of being forced to live among strangers. We have known mayors, magistrates and trial justices to overlook the misdeeds of men by ordering them to seek new pastures, but somehow or other we could not agree that such a policy was exactly right. Those who violate the law should be punished at home and not sent among strangers to carry on their acts of lawlessness. Although we believe in dealing mercifully with the unfortunates, we have yet to be convinced that they should be forced to go elsewhere, as this smacks too much of least resistance in handling cases of this kind.

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
April 14, 1937

THE DUCK HILL LYNCHING

Not one single word can be said in defense of the mob action at Duck Hill yesterday, when two negroes charged with the assassination of George Sam Windham, merchant, last winter, were taken from the sheriff of Montgomery county, carried into the woods, tied to trees, seared with blow torches, sprayed with gasoline and burned.

The action is to be deplored. It furnishes ammunition that the enemies of the south will not be slow in using.

The negroes were before a court ready for trial. There was apparently little doubt as their guilt. One of them had confessed when arrested, and their legal execution was a mere matter of going through the forms of the law.

Mississippi will suffer from yesterday's action.

Tupelo, Miss. News
April 14, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Mississippi's latest lynching—the outright murder of two accused negro killers—will no doubt spur leaders to push for early enactment of the anti-lynching bill.

The Magnolia State will get untold adverse publicity.

That lynching serves as a tonic for sponsors of that measure.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
August 19, 1937

Let Not Delay Aid Lynchers

It is to be regretted that the Tipton County Grand Jury found it necessary to adjourn until Sept. 1 instead of continuing its investigation into the lynching of a negro accused of slaying Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason.

Suspicion of indifference often accompanies delay. Tipton has a blot on its escutcheon that requires immediate effacement. A long record for law enforcement has been shattered by six hot-heads who not only defied a sheriff but actually overpowered him and took his prisoner and arms.

We do not urge undue haste—the deplorable results of improperly considered action are brutally dramatized by the lynching itself. We do believe, however, that the Grand Jury of Tipton County could well afford to stay in session to pursue its investigation. The only hope now is that the intervening weeks will not lessen its zeal to seek out the culprits who dared to seize the majesty of the law with their own gruesome hands.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
September 20, 1937

When Is a Mob Not a Mob?

One hears of a gang of masked men seizing a man, carrying him into the woods, beating but not killing him. It has occurred in this state, in North Carolina, in all states. Is it "mob law"?

A small gang siezed a negro, who was in jail, took him to the bushes, intending to give him stripes. The negro fought and was about to kill one of the gang, so they killed him. Was that a "lynching"?

When a crowd of three or three thousand "take the law into their hands" and beat a citizen until he is all but dead—and he lives—is that merely assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature?

The Virginians enacted a law when Senator Byrd was governor, with intent to stop lynching, thus defining a "mob":

"A mob is a collection of people assembled for the purpose and with the intention of committing assault and or battery upon any person, without authority of law." The act makes the offense a felony with penalty of not less than one year or more than ten years.

Under this act a party of men belonging to a union were convicted, the evidence against them being that they tried to prevent non-union men going to work in a rayon factory, upset two automobiles and injured persons but not seriously. They, members of the C. I. O., have been sentenced to "long terms." The act is said to have had considerable influence in suppressing lynching in Virginia.

The men under sentence have appealed. It is said that if the sentences be sustained by the courts the "organized labor movement in Virginia will be virtually destroyed"—which is tantamount to saying that organized labor depends on violence or a show of it. That is an indictment of organized labor in which The News and Courier does not join.

When is a mob not a mob? When it is composed of persons engaging in violence or disorder when on strike?

Or would Senator "Bob" Wagner and his gang make assault and or battery by a mob lawful? Would Senator Wagner defend the legality of a thousand men attacking another group of men with intent to scare and beat them but ending by killing one or two of them?

One does not like to believe it, but the signs are that Senator Wagner and his senatorial crew are champions of mob law while denouncers of lynching.

Or is it, after all, that Senators Wagner, Van Nuys, Copeland and the rest of the Northern sectionalists pressing their anti-Southern law are merely taking orders from city negro voters who hate the poor whites and working people of the South?

The well fed, the well clad and the well housed, the fancy bucks, the lawyers, bankers, cotton mill presidents and the like in the South never go to lynching parties.

What a pity it is that circumstances over which they have no control prevent politicians from blurting out the truth?

When is a mob not a mob in the eyes of Senator Wagner and his gang? When it suits their political interests. That is the they can't afford to say it, and honest gentlemen are sorry for them.

answer. They well know it, but, poor devils,

Morganton, N. C., News-Herald
October 19, 1937

RELIGION
In The Here and Now

By REV. NORVIN C. DUNCAN

The writer of this column has long maintained, with many other people of the South, that the matter of dealing with lynchers was something which should better be left to the States; particularly for the Southern States in which the problem is most acute. But, it seems to me, our arguments have fallen flat against our inability to deal with the problem at all, except to maintain, by implication at least, that lynching with impunity is the way to handle it. Recent outrages have been met with the same old "at the hands of unknown parties." "The sheriff could not recognize a single member of the party." We stand convicted before the world with an exhibition of hypocrisy which no kind of arguments can justify. It is doubly deplorable because it is difficult to escape the conviction that church members, either by actual participation, or acquiescence, share in the guilt of the outrages. Three lynchings in Florida in recent months serve to accentuate the hypocrisy in our arguments.

Recently a large photograph of a lynched Negro appeared in a magazine. It was a gruesome sight; but the dead Negro was not the horrible thing in the picture. What some white men had done to him was nothing compared to what they had done to themselves, and what they had done to law and to society. Their surrender to brute passions was tragic. They had done more than lynch a Negro; they had murdered their own souls. What they do to the Negro today they will one day do to each other. One witness is Spain. Spain brought up on the brutality of bull fighting as national sport. Now that brutal spirit finds itself engaged in murdering each other, with all sense of pity gone. We have already begun to reap what we have sown in the industrial conflicts throughout the land. Passions nurtured take no thought of race. White men turned against white men. The laws of the universe operate impartially. Every one knows the result of trials in which Negroes accused of rape are tried. There is no excuse for the crimes, but there are legal processes for dealing with them. Such crimes are terrible, but lynching is more terrible. Newspapers over the South, thank God, have spoken frankly and fearlessly. I do not hear many sermons, or reports from many, but so far I have not heard of one in protest. If you have heard one won't you drop me a post card? I'd like to know about it.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
October 13, 1937

Mobs And Men

Recently near Fort Walton, Fla., a group of armed and hooded men halted a sheriff, seized his 30-year-old Negro prisoner on the eve of his trial and riddled him with buckshot. It was Florida's third, the South's eighth, lynching this year.

From Villa Rica, Ga., comes another kind of story. Three men—one white and two black—were in a railroad water tank 30 feet deep, painting the walls with tar. Suddenly there was a crackle of flame which spread with the rapidity of an explosive. A narrow, one-man ladder led to the top of the tank and safety. F. L. Hill, white foreman for the Southern Railroad, stood back and ordered his Negro assistants up the ladder. They got out without injury. Foreman Hill was overcome by fumes and burned to death.

There is a vast difference between men in mobs and men as individuals. As mobs they are emotional, brutal, cowardly; as individuals they act like F. L. Hill, hero.

That is why this country must have anti-lynching and other laws to punish mob anarchy. If ever this democracy is destroyed it will be by mobs.

Newport News, Va. Press
October 19, 1937

Speaker Discusses Tragedy Of Lynching; Says Fear Of Harm Deters Disapprovers

Dr. Arthur Raper, Writer, Cites Needs for Overcoming Mob Violence; Seminar Concludes

"Lynchers go unpunished because punishment of their crime depends upon the same peace officers and court officials whose impotence they demonstrated when they lynched," Dr. Arthur Raper said yesterday at a session of the lecture-seminar conference which concluded last night at Hampton Institute. "The officers of the law have already shown their unwillingness or inability to administer justice, and lynchers, in most cases, are responsible only to the local courts," he added.

The speaker, author of a "Preface to Peasantry" and "The Tragedy of Lynching," said fear of violence, incendiarism and boycotts deterred the disapproving minority, white and Negro, from taking steps against the mob.

"Expecting these officers and this task the governments all have respon- sibility. It is like expecting a dethroned govern- ment to punish those who overthrew it. It is a grim fact that lynching mobs which burn courthouses are not wholly illogical. They and their sym- pathisers constitute the effective ma- jority in the community where

[illegible] to be permitted to lynch and then pro- ceed to punish them for it. Mr. Raper said "local civilization must protect its lynchers from punishment, and there is no simple substitute for [illegible] and thus violate the essential nature of local civilization." He emphasized a need for riddling the American scene, part."

William M. Cooper, director of ex- tension at Hampton Institute, treated the subject of "The Negro in Indus- try." The most significant part of his paper was that which pointed out the fields in which Negroes lost fundamentally important also the employment during the ten-year period in a yet larger region. In the county, state and fed- [illegible] poorer rural areas of the [illegible] brought to share more of 1920-30 and gains made during the in the economic and cultural same time. Of the losses, he said, in the nation. Any effective pro- [illegible] st be geared to the task of part:

[illegible] ove the lynching level the "The losses are, apprenticeships in [illegible] rd areas and the poorest building trades, 49.3 per cent; in ap- [illegible] prenticeships other than in building [illegible] ridding. trades, 5.74 per cent; blacksmiths, [illegible] Need for More Police [illegible], of course, the part of forgers, etc., 36.1 per cent; boiler- [illegible] aker cited the need for more [illegible] at the contributions of each makers, 26.3 per cent; coopers, mill- [illegible] police service, stronger jails, [illegible] related that whatever re- [illegible] en down when a mob forms; [illegible] ers, grains and flour and seeds, 34 per [illegible] e is no simple substitute for [illegible] y can be borne locally shall cent; millinery dealers, 23.6 per cent; [illegible] fficient court procedures and try." [illegible] ere. At the same time in no cigar and tobacco industries, 42.6 [illegible] r custodial care of mental [illegible] instance should per cent; food and allied industries, [illegible] illation." He emphasized a [illegible] the local community 8.7 per cent; miscellaneous and manu- [illegible] of the state and nation of which it is [illegible] should

is obvious from the list submitted that technological improvements have probably been responsible for a large share of the losses. They are losses nevertheless and must be reckoned in the employment problem of the race. Each of these industries has its own story, and its own problem. In the main, however, one will have to investigate each singly to be intelligent as to wise steps to take to correct the situation."

Gains Recorded

The gains in employment during the period were set forth as follows:

"Special gains have been made in the following industries: buyers, 71.1 per cent; managers and officials, 90.6 per cent; manufacturers, 160.8 per cent; painters, varnishers, enamelers, 93.9 per cent; paper hangers, 125.8 per cent; plasterers and cement finishers, 92 per cent; pressman and painters, 87.1 per cent; steel rollers and roller hands, 63.3 per cent; roofers, 71.4 per cent; structural iron workers, 77.6 per cent; operators in building industry, 98.6 per cent; chemical and allied industries, 38.4 per cent. In these gains are reflected the demands made upon American industry due to new trends in America. In some fields, at least, Negroes have been alert and able to respond to the new demands."

Industries operated by Negroes were mentioned in this summary:

"Negroes own and operate a considerable number of industries about which the general public actually knows little. One of the largest groups is that of the manufacturing of beauty preparations. Negroes, also, operate furniture factories, casket factories, candy-making establishments, enameling plants making enamel and a few who are entering building construction on a larger scale. These establishments are located in all sections of the United States and are not markedly concentrated in the South as one might suppose."

The program allotted one and one-half hours to a round-table discussion with the workers of Hampton Institute. The visitors finally received the last courtesies proffered by the school and their conference came to an end.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
October 11, 1937

MOB VIOLENCE

Recent Florida lynchings have provoked discussions as to underlying causes of disregard for law, Tampa Tribune and Sarasota Herald making contributions to the subject. "The undeniable slowness and uncertainty of the law," the Tribune asserts is one of the causes. The irresponsible "cowards who hide behind masks" is the Herald's answer to the question.

Almost certain knowledge that the courts will never convict perpetrators of mob violence is the main reason why mobs form to kill. Has any member of a lynching party been tried, convicted and sentenced?

There is a large element in the population which looks upon crime from an emotional background. Such persons never stop to reason about cause and effect. "He ought to be lynched," somebody will assert, and a mob is quickly formed. In most crimes of the nature to provoke emotional outbursts, the law is reasonably prompt. The accused has no powerful friends to delay his trial until the public forgets what it is all about.

What is needed more than anything else is thorough drilling in the responsibilities of citizenship.

That probably would take 50 years.

Our northern congressmen and senators would give a short course in this fundamental—a practical course, with a heavy penalty imposed on officers for failure to protect their prisoners—a penalty the community would pay in money.

Has anybody else a practical remedy?

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
October 22, 1937

LYNCHING AND PROSPERITY.

Baltimore Evening Sun.

A mob-murder in Florida was the third lynching in that State for this year and the eighth in the South.

Fairly reliable statistics on lynching are available now for a period of 50 years, which should be long enough to make it possible to draw inferences with some degree of reliability.

One thing that is quite clear is that, as the general level of civilization rises, the lynching rate tends to fall. The peak was reached in 1892, when the South was at the very nadir of depression, intellectual, financial, political and moral. In that year there were 231 crimes of this type.

In the last 10 years, however, the number has never risen above 28, the record for 1933—the low point of another depression.

But while the decline, viewed over a long period of years, has been continuous, it has not been altogether smooth. Although the curve is generally downward, there are small local irregularities, nearly always associated with the economic conditions prevalent at the time. In general, when the country is prosperous, lynchings are few. In 1928, for example, there were only 11 and in 1929—the panic struck late in that year—there were only 10. It is true that the lowest number recorded since 1885, eight, occurred in the depression year of 1932.

In the six years following the depression the average number of lynchings was 17. If eight have occurred so far this year, with less than three months to go, it seems possible that the whole number may not rise above a dozen. This would place 1937 as a year somewhat more prosperous than its immediate predecessors, without being a record-breaker; which agrees pretty well with the judgment of most economic observers.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
October 23, 1937

Overthrowing Government

"If anybody comes down to Florida," said the Governor of Florida, "and tries to upset the government, they ought to be rode on a rail. They ought to be hung to the nearest lamp-post."

Such a statement is interesting for a number of reasons and not the least of them is that the Governor seemed not to be aware that when such a lynching occurs the government actually is overthrown. When Governors do not understand that the law is lynched whenever men are, how soon can we expect the hoodlums who make up Southern mobs to understand it?

Key West, Fla., Citizen
October 19, 1937

A negro was lynched in southern Okaloosa county yesterday morning—four men took him from the sheriff. It appeared also from news stories that the sheriff had warning of the tragedy, but failed to interpret it correctly. Such incidents as that make passage of the Dyer anti-lynching bill all the more certain. No southern congressman or senator can argue against facts like that yesterday and that other incident at Tallahassee a few months ago.—Lakeland Leader.

Macon Ga. Telegraph
November 4, 1937

MOB RULE SCORED BY JUDGE GRAHAM

Innocent Georgians May Suffer Because of Lawless Acts, He Declares

MOUNT VERNON, Ga., Nov. 3.—Mob rule was scored by Judge Eschol Graham in his charge to the Montgomery county grand jury here this week.

Touching on the proposed anti-lynching bill, Judge Graham asked:

"Must our people suffer for the lawless acts of the mob? Already we are threatened with an act of congress, which we think will be oppressive to our people, due to the mob taking the law in their own hands, and due to the failure of some grand juries to make diligent inquiry into and true presentment concerning the crime of the mob.

"Even if we sought to justify the mob in some instances . . . the mob is more often wrong than right. Many are the innocent who suffer and are sometimes put to death by the mob . . . one crime does not excuse another, and you cannot right wrong with wrong."

Troy, Ala., Messenger
October 12, 1937

COULD IT HAVE BEEN IN OHIO?

We usually believe the statements we read in press dispatches. They are supposed to be accurate. However, we read that a mob of 200 to 250 people called at two different Ohio jails, searching for a young negro who had been arrested for an assault on a white couple. The mob was bent on vengeance. A representative of the mob was permitted to go through both jails, thus finding out that the prisoner was not therein. The mob then dispersed, and no lynching was chalked up against the peace and serenity of the state.

But could this have occurred in Ohio, whose citizens have so vigorously condemned the Southland for occasional lynchings?

Suppose the mob had found their intended victim, and carried out the evident intention of causing retribution. That would have been quite a different story. Explanations would have been difficult.

Miami, Fla. Herald
November 15, 1937

NEGRO SLUGGED

THE United Press recently carried the following story on its wires: "Spectators fought their way past police guards at an inquest and slugged and kicked Henry King, negro ex-convict charged with killing a filling station attendant. Police rescued King after a fight with the infuriated crowd."

The place was Chicago. It was a regrettable incident in the life of this great American city. The mob spirit showed a total disregard for law and order and the constitutional rights of the negro. The affair was markedly un-American, even as similar incidents are in the South.

The South is ashamed when mob violence outrages the law. It is not proud of its lynchings. But it sees that same spirit cropping out in Northern cities, where the large influx of colored people has created the age-old race problem—long peculiar to the South but now part of the life of certain great Northern industrial centers.

The race riots of recent years in New York, this Chicago incident, while they are to be deplored, show that given similar conditions, the unthinking mob behaves the same whether to the north or south of the Mason and Dixon line.

No anti-lynching bill can control the mob spirit. It is a matter to be handled and properly dealt with by the authorities where these un-American incidents occur.

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Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
August 19, 1937

LYNCHING SLOGANS

"To hell with the law!" is the answer a Tennessee sheriff said he received when he tried to reason with the six men who committed the latest lynching.

We do not doubt that the men were quoted correctly since that is a good lynching slogan. Perhaps they also used some of those other good old lynching slogans:

"To hell with decency!"

"To hell with democracy!"

"To hell with civilization!"

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 18, 1937

Another Lynching

Tennessee contributes the latest incident to arouse the ire of advocates of the anti-lynching bill. A negro, charged with the killing of a town marshal, was being brought from Memphis, where he had been held for safe keeping, to Covington for trial. Twelve miles from Covington he was taken from the county sheriff by a party of six men and the next seen of the prisoner was his dead body, riddled with bullets, hanging from a railway bridge. The sheriff said the men were masked and he recognized none of them. He was unable to give the number of the car in which they were riding.

If the prisoner's case was thought to be so desperate that it was necessary to take him to Memphis for protection, it would seem that the sheriff would have taken precautions to protect him on the way from Memphis to trial. Two or three deputies in the car with him and his prisoner would hardly have been overcome by a small party of six men.

Affairs like this have made a following in Congress for a federal law to prevent lynching. The sheriff expressed surprise that the murderers knew he was moving the prisoner. There seems to have been little reason why they should not have known, since his trial at Covington was set for the following day.

The states must demand protection for prisoners or they may have the federal government give that protection.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
August 14, 1937

The American Mob Leaders

In Northern cities in the first seven and a half months of 1937 twice as many persons have been killed in labor disputes as have been lynched in the South or in the whole country in the same period.

Most of these victims have been members of unions. In a particular manner no one except a jury can finally pass on the rights and wrongs, but every one knows that these men, directly or indirectly, were sacrificed to the spirit of mob law and the toleration of it. No one would have been butchered if breach of the peace, trespass, turbulence, had been put down from the start.

These men dead in labor disputes are dead because the theory is accepted that certain mobs have rights and that the common law must not stand in their way. Often, usually, are two mobs in the controversies, and sometimes the victims belong to one, sometimes to another.

Always the killings follow from the toleration if not encouragement of disorderly conduct, intimidation, assault and battery. They naturally end in killing.

These men in their Northern graves are as dead from the toleration of the mob as is any negro dead at the hands of a mob in Mississippi.

There is more "mob law" rampant in New York city this day than has been in the whole South this year.

The fact is that in a country of 125,000,000 inhabitants, as the United States is, a country having two races living side by side in one great section, there is astonishingly little lynching or racial conflict—which to both races is highly creditable.

But the mob spirit is rampant in the Northern cities. They are the home of it. They seem to welcome it. The notion is that it is all right to encourage the city mob in lawless demonstration to a certain point and then to shoot into it, to start slaughter.

Never before in this country have mob spirit and mob action been so general in the United States as they are now—and they are not in the South.

Yet the Northern congressmen, Democrats and Republicans, all congressmen if Northern with two or three exceptions, ignore the outrageous and terrorizing conditions at their doorsteps while they press a bill having no other purpose than to please the negro voters in their towns—negro voters against whom their white populations discriminate in business and industry.

If mob law shall take this country, if misrule shall be ascendant, answerable for it will be Wagner, Guffey, Van Nuys, men of their kind, wanting courage to oppose the mobs that howl in their own streets.

They are the mob leaders in America. They sit in the air-cooled bomb proofs and lead the mobs.

Brutal and cowardly as are the creatures who lynch a negro in Mississippi or South Carolina, the danger to this republic is from the political allies of the mobs in New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Chicago, from the mob leaders in congress who would see the constitution and the laws lynched rather than risk their jobs.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
August 18, 1937

Judge Lynch, Again.

Sheriff W. J. Vaughan of Tipton County, Tennessee has lost a prisoner. The prisoner was Albert Gooden, a Negro accused of killing an officer after a raid on what the Sheriff described as a "dice game." The crime was committed about a month ago and, because of threats of mob violence, Gooden was placed in jail at Memphis for safekeeping.

The Negro was to have been arraigned yesterday and Sheriff Vaughan was taking him back to Covington Monday night when he and a merchant who was riding with him were crowded off the highway by another car. Six masked men then covered the Sheriff and his companion with pistols, seized the handcuffed prisoner, transferred him to their own car and drove away.

Early yesterday morning officers found the body of the Negro hanging from a bridge near Covington. A plowline had been made to serve as a rope, and pistols also were used in the mob execution. There were more than thirty bullet holes in the victim's body from his shoulders to his legs. More than thirty shells from pistols of various caliber were found lying around.

Will any of the members of the mob that perpetrated this outrage be found and punished? That would be very unusual. There have been many lynchings in Tennessee, but so far no lyncher has ever been brought into court. Sheriff Vaughan said he was unable to identify any of the men who took his prisoner and that he did not get the license number of their car. Very likely they have nothing to fear.

According to the Sheriff's story, his pleas could not turn the mobsters from their purpose. He begged them to let the law take its course, assuring them that the Negro probably "would be hanged" after a speedy trial. "To hell with that" one of them shouted. "We want that ... . now!" And they got him and killed him in a rather brutal way, thus relieving the State of the duty of giving him his day in court and, if found guilty, of putting him to death in a legal and orderly manner.

"To hell with that" meant to hell with the Sheriff, to hell with the law, to hell with constituted authority, to hell with the safeguards of society. The State might in the same spirit reply "To hell with the mob," and suit the action to the word by hunting down these lynchers and holding them to account for their crime. But experience does not teach the public to expect that this will be done. The mob probably will continue to have its way until Congress places an anti-lynching law on the Federal statutes.

Greensboro, N. C., News
August 21, 1937

SOVEREIGNTY OF A STATE AND A MOB.

In Tennessee, one of the states whose rights were being so zealously guarded by some of our senators when they had the federal anti-lynching bill shelved recently, the country now has a striking example of a commonwealth preserved from this sort of federal intervention and, as a sort of side exhibition, the usual revelation of how local law enforcement does not apply to mobs.

Tipton county had its first lynching since the war between the states; and it would appear that if there was ever to be a place where those who take the law into their own hands were to be run down and punished this community where such a disgraceful occurrence is a rare event would be it. But what do we have?

The local authorities got off to a flourishing start. Hardly had the body of the dead negro, Albert Gooden, penetrated by 30 bullet holes and with the sheriff's handcuffs still binding his hands, been removed from its plow line hitch to a bridge timber before Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist was ordering the county grand jury to make a "real investigation" and indict for murder any members of the mob who could be identified.

It is unnecessary to go into the obstacles with which this local body of inquisition had to deal. They are so typical of those which have blocked similar investigations in other parts of the country that they are hardly worthy of being called news. The negro was dead and of course could not accuse his assailants. The only other eye-witness was the sheriff who had him in custody. And he did not recognize a soul. In

corroboration of his contention that he could not identify any of the six men who snatched Gooden from the then very much unprotecting arms of the law, the sheriff alluded to handkerchiefs tied over their faces. Naturally nobody would expect a sheriff to get a peep under those improvised hoods of anonymity even if it does seem plausible that one or two might have flapped a little in the excitement of mobsters running down the negro after he was turned loose by the officer and beating him over the head with butts of their guns. Nor do we suppose a sheriff should be held accountable for looking at any of the other physical features of the mobsters—there must not have been a bandy-legged one in the lot or he would have remembered it — or mayhap identify the voice which shouted defiantly "To hell with the law."

The man sworn to protect the law found himself totally without memory of anything that would be of value to the grand jury.

Where are the murder indictments for which the Tennessee judge called so loudly? As usual in such cases they are non-existent. The federal authorities for lack of statutory power were helpless to step into the investigation. The grand jury adjourned without even making a report to the court and thus we are confronted with the sovereignty of a state being upheld as the Congress wished it. By and by we may forget the dead negro.

Lumberton, N. C. Robersonian
August 20, 1937

WHAT ALL LYNCHERS SAY

"To hell with the law!" a group of six masked men shouted Tuesday when they seized a negro accused of slaying a white officer in Tipton county, Tenn., "and left his body dangling at the end of a frayed rope after riddling it with bullets", states an AP dispatch. That's what all lynchers mean, whether they say it or not; but they would be the first to call on the law for protection if they got in a tough spot themselves.

Union. S. C., Times
August 18, 1937

LYNCH LAW IN TENNESSEE

"Tennessee Negro Lynched By Six," says the headlines in the papers. "Six masked men shouting, 'To hell with the law,'" the newspaper describe the lynching of a terror-stricken negro accused of slaying a white officer after taking the prisoner from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan yesterday and leaving his body dangling at the end of a rope and riddled with bullets.

It was said to have been the first lynching in Tipton County, Tenn., since the War Between the States and the seventh in the South this year.

Every time there is an effort to penalize through an anti-lynch law the community of the South wherein lynchings occur, you may expect to see more, rather than fewer, lynchings. Nobody with a sane mind can defend lynching. It is a grave crime. But you will never eradicate lynching so long as would-be reformers attempt to stop it by special enactment of congressional laws. Why should there be an anti-lynch law any more than an anti-murder law? The reason is plain enough. Lynching is murder, and as such should be punished by law—the law against murder. And the law specifically against lynching is superfluous. If it be said that there must be a specific law against that particular law why not enact one specifically against throat slitting, gunshot or any other murder? You would have to enact a hundred specific laws, that would punish the inhabitants of a community and after you had done so, murders would increase. Either those who join a mob and lynch a human being are murderers, or they are nothing. Let them be tried upon the charge of murder. If the courts fail, the failure itself will produce more lynchings.

Columbia, S. C., Free Press
August 20, 1937

Seventh Lynching in The South This Year

The first lynching since the Confederate war and the seventh in the south this year occurred this week in Covington. Tenn. A group of masked men seized a negro accused of slaying a white officer and left his body dangling from a limb, riddled with bullets.

The body was that of Albert Gooden, 35. The rope gave away under the weight of the swaying form and the body was partly submerged in a creek when found. The handcuffs placed on the negro by officers were still around his wrists his feet were bound together.

The sheriff was bringing the negro to Covington to face charges of slaying City Marshall Chester Doyle, of Mason. Tenn., several weeks ago. The sheriff said the men with handkerchiefs over their faces dragged the negro out of his car under cover of pistols. The negro jerked loose but was caught again and they dumped him into a car and sped away.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
August 21, 1937

A Record Almost Bare.

In dealing with mob lawlessness, there is one instance to which Tennessee can point with pride. A year or two ago a large mob stormed the courthouse at Shelbyville, where a Negro had been arraigned on a charge of assaulting a white woman. The trial had scarcely begun when the mob attempted to enter and seize the prisoner. Trouble had been expected, State troops were on the scene, and there was a battle in which three or four members of the mob were killed. During the excitement and confusion the Negro was spirited away to Nashville, and that night infuriated mobsters burned the court house. The negro later was tried at Nashville, found guilty, and duly put to death in the electric chair.

But for this instance, Tennessee's record for dealing with mob lawlessness practically is bare of achievement. There have been numerous lynchings in the State, but with the exception of the mobsters killed at Shelbyville no mobster has ever been punished. If memory serves, few if any members of lynching mobs have ever been arrested. Therefore it will be interesting to note whether any of the six men who took a Negro prisoner from Sheriff Vaughan and brutally killed him will be apprehended and brought to book. The outlook is not promising, since the Sheriff said he did not recognize any of the men and did not get the license number of their car.

Under the Federal anti-lynching bill which has passed the House but which the Senate has left over to the next session of Congress, Sheriff Vaughan would be subject to penalty unless he could show that he had been remiss in the performance of his duty. Did he take all precaution to protect his prisoner? That seems to be open to question. When the Negro was arrested there was a threat of mob violence and he was hurried to Memphis for safekeeping. Yet when the Sheriff was returning him to Covington for trial he took along no deputies. His only traveling companion, aside from the prisoner, was a Covington merchant. Thus the six armed men had no difficulty in taking the Negro and visiting savage vengeance upon him. Probably three armed men could have done it just as easily.

Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist summoned a Grand Jury of farmers and merchants and, in a ringing denunciation of this lynching as "one of the most horrible and disgraceful crimes in the history of the county," charged them with the duty of investigating the outrage. After a two-day inquiry the Grand Jury recessed until September 1 with the statement that it had "nothing to report." So we repeat, it will be interesting to note whether anything will come of this latest official investigation of a lynching in Tennessee.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 5, 1937

No More Excused

Judge Eschol Graham, addressing a charge to a Montgomery county grand jury, took cognizance of need for the South to take its own medicine to cure the lynch evil.

"Must our people suffer for the lawless acts of the mob?" Judge Graham asked. "Already we are threatened with an act of congress which we think will be oppressive to our people, due to the mob taking the law into their own hands, and due to the failure of some grand juries to make diligent inquiry into and true presentment concerning the crime of the mob."

Judge Graham touched the sorest spot in the problem of how to stop lynchings. Lynchings usually occur in communities where almost everybody knows almost everybody else. There can be no doubt that the identities of mob members are generally known—known certainly to at least part of the county grand jurors. But nobody ever seems able to identify lynchers. That is something the grand juries can remedy if they will.

Judge Graham repeated the well-acknowledged facts that mobs often kill the innocent, and that one crime does not excuse another. No more does the long-standing custom of lynching excuse any further delay by Southern jurors and Southern sheriffs in making an honest and forthright effort to stamp it out.

Lynchings- 1937
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

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Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
November 20, 1937

Spirit of the Press

LYNCHING AND THE PRESS.

Winston-Salem Journal.

The Lynchburg Advance quotes The Philadelphia Record:

"The Southern people—who rarely hear of lynchings because most of their newspapers don't consider mob outrages to be news—feel the same way toward this relic of barbarism as the rest of the American people."

The Advance avers that the Philadelphia paper is bitterly antagonistic toward the South. We are not quite sure that this is true. At least we have not been able to detect such animosity in its editorials. But the Virginia paper properly takes The Record to task for the latter's charge that Southern newspapers suppress stories of mob outrages.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. The Southern press for years has published news about such incidents in a complete manner; and not only that, it has fought consistently, persistently and vigorously against all forms of hoodlumism and mob violence.

In writing the paragraph quoted, the Northern editor unquestionably neglected to confer with either memory or reason. Possibly, he didn't intend to put it just that way, but certainly he owes an apology to the newspapermen of the South, who, perhaps to a greater extent than any other individuals or institutions, have striven to extirpate forever from Dixie old Judge Lynch and all his henchmen.

THE TRUNKS OF MR. BEDAUX.

Philadelphia Record.

No, we don't refer to the gentleman's bathing suit, but the 22 trunks which he has shipped to England, while the author of the Bedaux-point system of labor speed-up and his wife prepare to travel incognito, as Jones.

It is the Bedaux ideal, as you know, that there be no waste time, no waste motion, that every little human movement have a meaning of its own and also a profit. Which has aroused in us intense wonder as to whether the Bedaux system was used in packing the 22 trunks.

We have, of course, observed the packing of trunks and bags. We have, in fact, helped pack some, invariably putting in all the trousers and leaving out all the coats, or packing shirts and no ties, or forgetting to pack the pin-cushion for Aunt Tootsie, or—anyway, we've always had to pack and repack, hunt for this, find the toothbrushes still left out, and finally sit on the lid to get the catch closed. Under the Bedaux system, we not only wouldn't be paid for our sheer inefficiency, we'd have to fire ourselves.

But now picture the neat, immaculate, scientific scene in the Bedaux household. A trim row of 22 valets and maids, before a shining row of 22 trunks: One valet for neckties, one for pajamas, one for shirts, one for socks, one maid for dinner gowns, one for jewels—and even one for milady's panties. The notion of these garments and—ahem, articles—being deposited in trunks with the neat precision of cars coming off an assembly line; the clocklike motions of the Jeeveses smoothing down ruffles, and fitting hairbrushes and razors and quarts of Scotch into such perfect position that not one square sixteenth of an inch of Bedaux trunks goes unoccupied—

All this—and then the thought of Bedaux missing the boat.

THE SOUTHERN SENATORS.

The New Republic.

In next month's special session, the Senate is pledged to consider the anti-lynching bill as soon as the Administration's farm measure has been voted on. It has been reported for weeks that the Southern Senators would secretly like to see the anti-lynching bill pass. They will pretend to filibuster against it, but they will take pains to see that the filibuster fails. In this way anti-New Deal Southerners hope to gain an issue to use against the Administration in next year's primaries. Men who must stand for re-election—for example, Senator George of Georgia—are said to feel that white supremacy is almost the only issue on which they can defeat pro-Roosevelt rivals. Other Southerners are reported to have more ambitious plans. They would like to capture the State Democratic organizations in next year's primaries, so that in 1940 they can take anti-New Deal delegations to the Democratic National Convention.

ANTI-LYNCHING.

Lakeland (Fla.) Evening Ledger.

The Southern Senators and Congressmen had as well realize that an anti-lynching bill is in the cards, to be dealt out sooner or later, and accept it as inevitable. Moreover, such a measure may be about the only way of halting mob violence throughout the country. Our communities and our States have been impotent.

Danville, Va., Register
December 2, 1937

LYNCHING HISTORY

(Charlotte Observer)

The most authentic and available data shows that 3,679 persons have been lynched in this country since 1882 and that of this number 700 were white and 2,979 were negroes.

No lynchings have ever occurred, according to these records, in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, and 10 other States have records that are almost clean, Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings (72.2 per cent) have occurred in eight States. Mississippi tops the list with 485 recorded lynchings. In order, come Georgia, 469; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241; Tennessee, 210.

Far more negroes than whites have been lynched in the South, but in the West and Mid-West the situation is reversed.

Negroes comprised only 12.4 per cent of the 257 individuals lynched in 17 States. Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. It is probable that many of the "white" victims in these States were Mexicans or Indians.

The six years, 1882-1887, inclusive, witnessed 752 lynchings or 20.4 of the 55-year total. The 15-year period, 1922-1937, inclusive, brought only 304 such crimes or 8.2 per cent of the total. The "high" year was 1883, with 158 lynchings; and 1933 was "low" with only eight. Nine lynchings were recorded in 1936, and seven through September 30, 1937. All the victims in the last two years were negroes, and the 16 lynchings occurred in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The South Atlantic and South Central States account for 88.3 per cent of all recorded lynchings.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
December 5, 1937

Lynching History

(Charlotte Observer)

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Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings (72.3 per cent) have occurred in eight states. Mississippi tops the list with 485 recorded lynchings. In order, come Georgia, 469; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241; Tennessee, 210.

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The six years, 1882-87 inclusive, witnessed 752 lynchings, or 20.4 of the fifty-five-year total. The fifteen-year period, 1922-37 inclusive, brought only 304 such crimes, or 8.2 per cent of the total. The "high" year was 1883, with 158 lynchings; and 1933 was "low" with only 8. Nine lynchings were recorded in 1936, and 7 through September 30, 1937. All the victims in the last two years were Negroes, and the 16 lynchings occurred in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The South Atlantic and South Central States account for 88.2 per cent of all recorded lynchings.

Marion, N. C., News
December 30, 1937

While there has been no decrease in the number of lynchings in 1937, there were no more than in 1936 and far less than in the two years previous to '36. Even if civilization is showing no advance, it is not retarding along that line. We are glad the attempted assault upon a negro prisoner in McDowell county did not materialize to increase the list this year.

Lynchings-1937
Discussion

White Press, Southern.

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THE LYNCH PROBLEM

From the Lanier County News.

Boake Carter, famous radio news commentator, said in a recent broadcast that only the South could solve its lynch problem, and that the federal government had no business to interfere in such a situation. Lanier county, without any lynchings, without any gangdom, without any labor violence and without any farm strikes, certainly looks like God's country. But, what of Senator Wagner of New York, trying so desperately to jam the anti-lynching bill through the upper house at this most critical time? We admire the senator, but we feel that at this particular time he is proving false to his great responsibility as one of the New Deal stalwarts. Perhaps he should be doing something constructive to help solve the gang murders, underworld lawlessness and labor violence which occurs so frequently in his own great section.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5554

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
April 15, 1937

A LYNCHING EMBARRASSES.

The lynching of two Negroes at Winona, Mississippi, Tuesday by a mob of white men has placed in an embarrassing position every member of Congress who opposes enaction of a Federal anti-lynching law. The degree of that embarrassment and what it may lead to is reflected in the unprecedented action of Chairman Sumners, of the House Judiciary Committee, who Wednesday addressed to Governor Hugh White, of Mississippi, a telegram protesting against "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutality execute."

If memory serves, no other member of Congress, certainly no other Chairman of an important congressional committee, has protested formally to a Governor against a violation of the laws of a State. The fact that Representative Sumners, a Texan, is the leader of Southern Democrats who are opposing the Gavagan Federal anti-lynching bill gives added force to his comment. Concerning the mob crime in Mississippi, Chairman Sumners has said to the Governor of that State: "It is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the States." And a note of warning is discernible in these words of Representative Sumners:

> It (the crime) will be seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the States to govern. As one Southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact, cannot escape in effect from becoming an accessory after the fact unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment.

In effect, Representative Sumners has asked Governor White to carry out, under the authority of the State Government, the course of action which would be prescribed in the pending Gavagan bill. That bill would impose heavy fines and prison terms on not only the members of a lynch mob, but also on peace officers who permitted prisoners to be taken from them. Governor White has called upon District Attorney Clarence Morgan, at Jackson, Mississippi, to investigate the lynchings at Winona. Sheriff E. E. Wright, from whom the two Negroes were taken, has denied reports that he will not conduct an investigation.

No one acquainted with life in a small town (the population of Winona in 1930 was 2,067) will believe that a Sheriff and two Deputies, forced by a mob of 100 men to give up two prisoners, can fail to identify a large number of them. Winona is the County seat of Montgomery County. In rural Counties throughout the South, Sheriffs make it their business to know virtually every one in the County; the wider their acquaintance the more votes they obtain for election and re-election. The failure of peace officers to protect prisoners against mobs is, in effect, a confession that mob violence, when a Negro is the victim, is not regarded as a crime by those who participate, either as members of the mob or as peace officers who too infrequently make it hard for mobs to seize the objects of their brutality.

It is the lack of public sentiment against lynching which is the root of the problem. Police officers have demonstrated in several notable cases that Negroes can be protected against mob violence. But in communities where prejudice against the Negro is bitter, Sheriffs and other peace officers find it easy to surrender prisoners to a murderous mob. In one case in South Carolina, Governor Richards sent constables into Aiken County in 1927 to investigate the lynching of three Negroes—two men and a pregnant woman. Evidence incriminating several people was submitted to a Grand Jury, but no one was indicted. Sitting on the Grand Jury were men who had been members of the mob.

The fact that most Southern members of Congress oppose Federal anti-lynching legislation on the ground that it would be a "slap" at the South is itself an acknowledgment of the lack of sentiment against lynching. Many people who wish the South would enforce laws against mob violence and eliminate all grounds for Federal action will find little that is convincing in the arguments advanced by Southerners against the pending anti-lynching bill. Commenting on the Mississippi mob crime, Representative Miller, of Arkansas, asserts: "Those participating in this lynching have violated the law of Mississippi and the good citizens of that State will resent it. But it is not a case for Federal interference."

The "good citizens" who resent mob violence after the crime has been committed are apparently incapable of preventing it and, in virtually every instance, are equally incapable of punishing those who participate. If Governor White replies to Chairman Sumners by bringing "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment" he will provide at least a basis for the contention that Federal action in such cases is not necessary. A reasonable basis for that contention does not now exist. The repetition of lynchings is causing more and more people in this section to believe that such instances of brutality and terrorism should be regarded, not as a violation of the laws of a State, but as a crime against society itself and subject to prosecution under Federal laws.

Clarkesville, Tenn., Chronicle
April 14, 1937

Lynching

Governor Hugh White, of Mississippi, is no doubt ashamed of the record of his state instead of "justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in fifteen months," as he said in an address yesterday only a few minutes before a mob lynched two Negro men. Imagine the chagrin that he as the head of government in Mississippi must feel at the disrepect that some of the people of his state have shown toward law and order.

The two Negroes had been arrested charged with the murder of a white merchant near Duck Hill, had pleaded innocence, and were being taken from the courthouse back to jail, to await trial. Between 200 and 500 men overpowered the sheriff and his deputies and took the Negroes to the scene of the murder and tortured them by burning their bodies with flames from blow torches. One died from burns and the other was then shot. A third under slight suspicion was beaten and told to leave town.

Certainly if these men killed the merchant they deserved death, but they deserved this death only after a court had tried them. We are living under a system of government not in a land of savagery. Organized society points with pride to its government. One arm of government is the system of courts and in America anyone accused of crime is entitled to a trial before a judge that is elected by the people and a jury of twelve citizens. This plan was adopted in order to give the accused a trial that would be fair to them and also give the people a part in administering this branch of the government. People in this mob would probably give as their excuse for their act that they were afraid to risk the courts to administer justice. This is a foolish charge for twelve jurors would sit on the case when it came to trial and no doubt many of these jurors would have been chosen from the very people who took part in the mob. As jurors though, they would have heard all the evidence presented and weighed it carefully before giving their verdict. They would have gone about the trial in a calm and deliberate manner and not rushed at conclusions in a prejudiced mad frenzy.

Maybe it would not appeal to those who took part in this mob to be a part of an orderly jury, maybe they wanted to have a part in the execution to give vent to their anger. If this is the case they are guilty of murder and are no better than the murderer of the merchant at Duck Hill.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 16, 1937

"Civilization"—1937

"Mob burns two Negroes."

Quoting a headline from the daily press—

Neither in the savage jungle of the dark continent of Africa—

Nor amid the teeming hordes of benighted India or China—

Not even in the barbaric savagery of the Fiji Islands—

But, here at home—in Mississippi.

The colored boys in question were accused of killing a white resident near Duck Hill, Montgomery County.

A white mob seizes the Negroes from the sheriff and his deputies—let the news dispatches tell the sordid story:

"The mob lashed Roosevelt Townes, 26, of Grenada, to a tree with chains. 'Bootjack' McDaniels, 26, of near Duck Hill, was the first to feel the searing blowtorch. He quickly confessed his part in the slaying.

"McDaniels was then riddled with bullets.

"The torch was next applied to Townes and he repeated the confession.

"After mutilating him with the blowtorch for an hour, the lynchers piled brush high about him, saturated it with gasoline and touched a match to the pyre."

Under the "ordeal of fire" the hapless Negroes confess their crime—

Doubtless guilty—however:

Under the searing pain of the blowtorch, almost anybody might confess to almost anything.

Not content with obtaining a confession, the lynchers mutilate one of the victims for an hour with the blowtorch—perhaps, just for "fun" to see him "squirm."

So much for "civilization" in Montgomery County, Mississippi.

Another dark and dismal chapter in our Mississippi history.

Small wonder that the federal anti-lynching bill seems headed for an early passage!

If and when the federal government shall step in to help rule states which cannot rule themselves—we shall be duly sorry—

All the more regretful because we have ourselves alone "to blame."—Meridian (Miss.) Star.

Pomeroy
Washington, D. C., Washingtonian
April 8, 1937

There were 20 persons lynched in the United States in 1935 according to the Tuskegee Institute and 53 instances in which officers prevented lynching.

Greenville, Ala., Advocate
April 15, 1937

Alabama's Lynch Law

In Alabama the penalty for lynching is from five years in the penitentiary to the death sentence. For aiding in a lynching the punishment is from one to twenty-one years. Only eleven States provide any penalty for this crime. Five of these States are in the South. Eight States place a heavy liability for personal injury and property damage against cities and counties where damage is done by mob violence.

Durham, N. C. Herald
April 18, 1937

STATE OF MIND IS CAUSE OF LYNCHING

Sociologist Says Lynch Law Is Most Attractive To Poorer Rural Whites

Atlanta, April 17.—(AP)—Dr. Arthur Raper, research secretary for the commission on interracial cooperation, said today the present lynchings in the south "are motivated by the same mental attitude that caused the historical Massachusetts witch burnings."

"Lynchings," he said, "Come out of the state of mind of white people much more than out of the crimes committed by Negroes, just as witches were burned in Boston not because there were witches in Boston but because of the state of mind of the people in Boston."

He said the use of a blow torch in a lynching this week in Mississippi demonstrated a new development: the impact of the mechanical age on a primitive method of social control."

Dr. Raper personally has investigated more than 100 lynching cases in the last nine years. He is author of the "Tragedy of Lynching," and "A Preface to Peasantry."

The typical southern lynching falls into two classifications, Dr Raper said. First, by the "orderly" mob directed by community leaders; second, by the wild mob type.

"The first type is bourbon in leadership and its principal object is to wreak vengeance on a particular individual," Dr. Raper said.

"The second type is proletarian and is distinctly directed against an entire class of people. It is distinguished by sadistic tortures of the victims."

He said the recent Mississippi lynching was a combination of the two types.

Dr. Raper said the typical lynching is "in the rural south, the mob victim is a Negro, the lynchers are native-born whites, and the courts punish no one."

He said his studies show that a man in the 200 "most rural counties" of the south is in 60 times more danger of being lynched than is a man in the half-dozen most populous counties.

Dr. Raper declared lynchers seldom are punished because "punishment depends on the same peace officers and court officials whose impotence they demonstrated when they lynched."

He said the leading white people in some communities direct a lynch mob to maintain control of Negro labor.

"But it is the poorer rural whites, who live on about the same plane as the landless Negroes near-by, to whom manhunts, mock trials and lynchings prove most attractive. The racial dogma is precious to them because it is proof they are superior.

"They get a chance to escape boredom of restricted lives. For a time they are people of importance—they assume the role of society's protectors; they flourish weapons; they hunt down the accused; they determine his guilt; they destroy him."

Dr. Raper said the most effective answer to the problem of lynching is to give the poorer rural areas of the south a greater share in the economic and cultural wealth of the nation. He declared:

"Any effective program must be geared to the task of lifting above the lynching level the poorest rural areas and the poorest elements in a yet larger region. In this task the county, state and federal governments all have responsibility.

"It is, of course, the part of wisdom that the contributions of each be so correlated that whatever responsibility can be borne locally shall be left there. At the same time, in no instance should the local community be permitted to lynch and then protect its lynchers from punishment, and thus violate the essential nature of the state and nation of which it is a part."

Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
April 17, 1937

PREVENTING LYNCHINGS.

The editorial expressions of leading newspapers printed elsewhere in this page constitute a worthwhile discussion of the social problems growing out of mob murders. The torture-lynching of two Negroes at Duck Hill, Mississippi, last Tuesday, by a mob of white men who committed the crime at the very moment a Federal antilynching bill was being debated in the House of Representatives, was, in the words of the Baltimore *Sun*, a "melancholy coincidence." It was, moreover, a coincidence which gives weight and influence to the contentions of those who earnestly believe Federal action is necessary if mob violence is to be stamped out. Granting that public sentiment is aroused over the failure of State officials to prevent lynchings, it is still seriously to be questioned whether the Gavagan bill just passed by the House provides an effective means for solving the problem.

The Gavagan bill is apparently airtight. It would authorize the Federal Government to take over any lynching case if, after thirty days, the State had not indicted and prosecuted the lynchers. Once the Federal Government assumed jurisdiction, a peace officer who had permitted a prisoner to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death, would be subject to a fine of as much as $5,000, and to a sentence of as many as five years in prison. Members of the mob which lynched the prisoner would be subject to prison sentences of from five years to twenty-five years. Finally, the County in which the lynchings occurred would be subject to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000, the money to be paid to the victim's family.

Those penalties are obviously designed to increase the protection afforded prisoners by making lynching extremely costly to both peace officers and taxpayers. That may be sound in theory, but in practice such a plan might be disastrous. The survivors of a Negro who had been lynched would find it impossible to avoid persecution once they had received out of the County treasury public funds paid to them by order of the Federal Government. A more valid objection to all the provisions in the Gavagan bill was stated in the House debate by Representative Robsion, of Kentucky, who believes the Federal Government should legislate against lynching. Emphasizing the fact that under the Gavagan bill Federal penalties would apply only after a prisoner had been taken from a peace officer, Representative Robsion made this important point: "What inducement is there for an officer to take an accused person into custody? He would subject himself to indictment and his County to damages."

That contention seems sound. Instances known to people in the South where peace officers actually co-operated with mobs in the lynching of Negroes are numerous enough to warrant the belief that if the Gavagan bill became law, peace officers in many Southern Counties would allow ample periods of time for the murderous expression of mob spirit before attempting to make arrests in cases which are likely to lead to lynchings. If the Federal Government is to prevent mob murders it would seem that its jurisdiction should begin when the prisoner can be protected and not after the lynching has occurred.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Mail
May 29, 1937

DIDN'T HELP

That negro in Georgia who killed two women deserved no mercy. But it did not help the cause of Southerners, fighting now against a federal anti-lynching bill hatched in Harlem and other negro sections of the North, for a bunch of high-strung and hot-headed Georgians to drag a dead negro's body all over Bainbridge after officers had shot him for trying to "escape." A few more incidents of that type and the Gavagan bill will become law.

Norfolk, Va. Press
May 26, 1937

Civilization in Bainbridge

As Sheriff W. J. Catledge, of Bainbridge, Ga., tells it, Willie Reed, a 20-year-old Negro, was arrested in Dothan, Ala., on a charge of killing two white women. He confessed his guilt. En route to Albany, Ga., the prisoner wrenched open the door of the automobile with his handcuffed hands, while the car was going at 35 miles an hour, and ran for nearby woods. Whereupon deputies from whom he had escaped shot and killed him.

The story smacks of the Latin-American technique of liquidating prisoners under the "law of flight." But the story may be true. In any event it is beside the immediate point. The deputies gathered up the body of their prisoner and deposited it in a Bainbridge undertaking establishment. Then the mob took charge. A hundred men broke into the undertaking establishment, took out the body, tied it to an automobile, dragged it around the public square and on to the Negro baseball park and there, after knocking boards off the fence, celebrated their triumph by burning all that was left of the dead prisoner.

Presumably this was not lynching. The mob did not kill the prisoner because he was already dead. It did not take the place of the law because there was no further punishment that could be exacted. All that is left, therefore, is the picture of American citizens descending to a ghoulish exhibition of sadistic savagery. Is it any wonder that the remainder of the country has roused itself to an ever more intensive study of the capacity of the Federal government to curb and control the spirit of bestiality which some Southern States continue to tolerate?

Lynchings - 1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5555

Luverne, Ala., Journal
June 9, 1937

If (?) lynching is ever justifiable, it should have been applied on the spot to that drunken driver of the truck that ran into that Greyhound Bus near Orion Monday morning on the Bee Line Highway. It makes us sad to even think about the unsafety of our roads. Here is a bus loaded with 29 passengers who had a reason to believe that their lives were safe, but behold just a few yards away comes a high-powered truck driven by a drunken negro taking both sides of the highway, and rams the bus. An explosion occurs, sets the bus on fire. One person is burned and nearly all the passengers on the bus were more or less injured. One woman lost $400 hard earned money. Is that all? It is a serious matter to think that hundreds of men are employed by the State to patrol the highways. Where were these men? We doubt very seriously that there was a single patrolman on this Bee Line Highway between Troy and Montgomery when this accident occurred.. This driver no doubt, got his whiskey in Montgomery and then started out to clean off the highway. You can start out on some highways, in any direction at most any time, day or night and you never see a patrolman. Where are they? What do they do? It may be that McAdory's men are responsible for this wreck and destruction of property and injury to persons. The DRUNKEN driver should have been dumped into the fire he caused.

McComb, Miss. Journal
June 9, 1937

AND HE MADE A SPEECH

The Daily News was kind and considerate with Congressman Sumners, of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, when he came to Jackson a few days ago to do some raving and rearing and tearing of what he has left in the way of hair concerning the subject of lynching.

Congressman Sumners, chief speaker before the Mississippi Association for Prevention of Lynching, was our guest and therefore it would not have been polite to say anything against the carefully prepared and shipped-in-advance speech he had written for the occasion. No newspaper printed it in full. In fact, he got only a few lines in the papers. More important things going on. His crowd was meagre. "Slimly attended," said one reporter.

That was in strict accord with the eternal fitness of things.

Congressman Sumners is not a good speaker.

Congress Sumners had a poor subject.

Congressman Sumners happens to be chairman of the House judiciary committee because of the rule of seniority and not because of any particular fitness he has for the place.

So much by way of prelude for a thumping good editorial.

Down at Biloxi dwells George P. Money who devotes his leisure time to writing darned good editorials for the Gulfport-Biloxi Daily Herald.

If you happen to know anything about Mississippi history you certainly know the prominent part that has been played in our state affairs by the Money family—beginning with that illustrious blind Senator Hernando DeSoto Money. George Money is his blood kin. He is a scholar and a gentleman, gracefully growing old but still capable of good thinking.

All right. That's the introduction. Now listen to what George P. Money has to say in the Gulfport-Biloxi Daily Herald concerning Congressman Sumners and the subject of lynching. Here it is:

> Congressman Sumners of Texas is chairman of the House judiciary committee, we believe. As such he feels responsible —in addition to being a Southerner—for the anti-lynching bill which has passed the House after introduction by a New York Congressman who has a well-shaded district, but perhaps has never been where one has to carry a lantern to see his way in a crowd down here. He has given interviews and written Southern Governors about it, and cries, even as of old. "Help me, Cassius, or we sink!"
>
> He warns all, that if "they" do not stop lynching—which generally is done unexpectedly and suddenly by a small number, some of them quite irresponsible—a Federal lynching law will be passed, and the Federal grand juries, once in a great while, first in the Northern and then in the Southern District, they will indict somebody or other if they can learn who they are, or even find John Doe and Richard Doe indictments—there will be great times at the trials.
>
> Under the President's court bill, even some of the new Northern judges may be assigned to try such cases.
>
> Suppose that somebody introduced a bill up there to indict the sheriffs, the constables, the governor and district attorneys who have failed to put down the mobs in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, New York, California, where thousands, innumerable times, have gathered and broken many laws; have defied the police and the courts and all constituted authority; have denied the right to others not affiliated with them to work; have stoned and beaten non-affiliated employes; have stopped business; have taken possession of plants and places of business; have stopped transportation and business. Why not such a Federal law? These things take place, have taken place; will continue to take place, and "conciliation" and "arbitration" and "conference" are resorted by the states where these things have occurred. Let the Federal government take charge of it. More than 70,000 are going out now —and they know what it means.
>
> Then, again, why not introduce a bill to give the Federal government authority to indict all those scoundrels who have kidnaped, abused and killed poor little children, grown men, women? Gangs of the large "cultivated" and "literate" cities who have taken men for rides and crossed state boundaries? And why not have the government take charge of the unconscionable and criminal rackets in the large cities?
>
> We do not condone lynching at all, and wish that all citizens of this and other states would abide by the law—resort to it for punishment of crimes. But we have to bear with it —the people of the East and West do not. But nevertheless the people of New York, by their Congressman's bill, would administer our police laws. They always are telling us what to do in the South. We are always wrong, deficient, omissive and commissive in some way—we always measure short when their yardstick is laid to us mentally, physicary, sentimentally, economically, educationaly, artistraly, productively, and otherwise.
>
> We ask them to clean their own stables. We know very well whence comes the motive of these bills and anti-lynch bills. We are not one whit deceived.
>
> At San Pedro, California, last week, a policeman shot a longshoreman. There was a mass meeting of 4000 marine workers who "took over" San Pedro for the day in protest, and defied the police. They paralyzed the lawful control of the city. Work on the waterfront was halted and business places closed. Yet we are unlawful in the South!
>
> And so, we ask that we give them a Roland for their Oliver. We want some Federal bills giving the government power to straighten out some conditions in other places if we are to have a Federal anti-lynch law. And we would like to read some of our Southern Congressmen telling them that. What happened in California until Southern Representatives helped the Western Congressmen pass the anti-alien law? Plenty of assaults upon Orientals. But their Congressmen now recall the help we gave them. Introduce a bill to repeal the Chinese and Asiatic exclusion laws and watch them squirm!

Marked copies of George P. Money's editorial have been sent to Senators Pat Harrison and Theodore G. Bilbo.

That absurd anti-lynching bill is pending in the Senate. It will die on calendar.

George P. Money's editorial will appear in the Congressional Record, which isn't a very interesting publication but more people read it than were assembled to hear Congressman-Chairman Sumners' diatribe in Jackson on the general subject of lynching.

The best explanation of passage in the lower house of Congress of that Federal anti-lynching bill is that members of the body stumbled into the chamber one day and felt that they were in duty bound to pass a bill of some sort that might make constituents believe they were doing something.

Concluding the subject:

Pass out some pity to the secretaries, clerks, and stenographers in the office of Congressman Sumners. They have so many angry letters to answer, most of them from the constituency of Congressman Sumners.—Daily News.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 19, 1937

'TO HELL WITH THE LAW.'

Shouting "To hell with the law," six masked men laughed as they seized a Negro from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan near Covington, Tennessee, in Tipton County, early Tuesday. Twelve miles South of the city, the mob hanged the Negro to the outer beam of a steel bridge over Beaver Creek. Either before or after the Negro was lynched, more than thirty bullets were fired into his body. The first lynching in Tennessee since 1935—a crime as brutal as has been committed in this State—raises the immediate question whether the people of Tipton County will echo the mob's cry, "To hell with the law."

The forthright denunciation of the mob by Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist, and his demand that the County Grand Jury make a "real investigation," lead to the hope that an inquiry will result in identification of members of the mob, followed by speedy indictment and trial, and their conviction. Judge Baptist has demanded first-degree murder indictments against every one identified as having participated in the lynching. He has not only asserted that members of the mob and all who aided them are guilty of murder in the first degree, but he has also taken steps to assure that the investigating Grand Jury will be composed of men in sympathy with his course, and sympathetic also to the purposes of a statute which provides punishment for Sheriffs who "negligently and willfully or by want of proper diligence" allow prisoners to be taken from them.

The Negro, accused of having slain City Marshal Chester Doyle, of Mason, Tennessee, a month ago, had been kept in jail in Memphis because of a previous attempt at violence. The prisoner was being returned to Covington to stand trial when the attack on the Sheriff was made. In the light of the previous effort to substitute mob action for legal procedure, Sheriff Vaughan should be required to explain why he did not safeguard the delivery of his prisoner by providing an escort large enough, and determined enough, to discourage any lawless gang.

White men who hide behind masks, shout 'to hell with the law," and lynch Negroes, and members of their own race, rarely risk their own lives to do so. With all the cunning of cowards, they attack when they know there will be the least resistance. Law enforcement officers charged with protecting prisoners against whom public feeling has been aroused are seldom unable to keep their prisoners alive and in their custody when they desire to do so.

The law-abiding citizens of Tipton County, humiliated by the first lynching in their County since the War Between the States, can contribute a great deal to the campaign against mob violence by supporting Judge Baptist in his effort to identify and convict for murder the perpetrators of a brutal lynching. If the spirit of mob violence is to be sanctioned, if masked men are to be permitted to lynch the law along with their fellows, it will be only a matter of time before no one, white or Negro, is safe. Crimes like that near Covington, and the indifference of law enforcement officials which usually follows, are leading to the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law. It remains to be seen whether the people of Tipton County will prove to the rest of the State, to the South and to the Nation that mob violence can be dealt with effectively in this section.

Knoxville Tenn., Journal
August 18, 1937

Another Lynching

Indignation will be felt generally throughout Tennessee because of the shame which six men placed upon the name of the state Monday in stringing up a Tipton county Negro whom they had taken from an officer at the point of a gun.

Whether or not the Negro was guilty or innocent is not a matter which need concern us here. The point is that again Tennessee and the South have been disgraced by citizens taking the law into their own hands in defiance of the authorities.

To add to the disgrace of this affair, it is our prediction that nothing will be done about it. That's not because it happened in Tipton county, either, because there have been other lynchings and we've never known of a case so far where anyone was ever punished for participation in one of these returns to barbarism.

If there is anything that the state government can do to disclose the perpetrators of this latest offense against not only the Negro but our whole commonwealth, then by all means it should be done. If it were once demonstrated that those who hold these lynching parties were reasonably sure of themselves being punished under the law there would be a great deal less enthusiasm about organizing them.

With the national publicity Tennessee has gotten within the past decade from the monkey law trial, from child marriages, and occasional lynchings, it's remarkable that we stand as well among our sister states as we do.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
August 18, 1937

Lynchings Can Be Stopped

There has been another lynching in the South—this time in Tennessee. It is another proof of the painful fact that no fundamental progress has been made in the long, hard problem of making people apply cold reason in times of heated passion.

It may be that argument and education never will suffice alone to make potential lynch mobs remember that the laws and courts exist to do justice. But The Telegraph is too obstinate to believe that words and reason are wasted on the subject. Concededly, so long as there is nothing but talk about lynching there will be no remedy for it. But enough talk eventually will have an effect on voters and they will have an effect on enforcement officers.

A few determined and perhaps sacrificial efforts to prevent lynchings will yield results. Not so many years ago Bibb county saw two good examples of determined law enforcement officers preventing lynchings—and officers who were instrumental in preventing each of the lynchings still hold office.

In one, a sheriff and his force stood off thousands of mobsmen at the county jail. In another a jailer flatly refused to surrender his prisoner and offered to meet force with force if necessary.

It is such cases as these which teach real respect for law and order.

In this week's lynching in Tennessee, a party of six white men took a Negro slaying suspect from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan and an assistant between Memphis and Covington. The sheriff said he did not recognize the men because they were masked. That may be possible. But less easily explainable was his failure to secure the license tag number of the car in which the lynchers rode. There was no indication of any real resistance to the "mob" of six.

The guilt or innocence of lynch victims or their suspected guilt naturally is the inflammatory element in mob motivation. But in reason it has no bearing on the issue. The reason for lynch law's despicability is simply that it abrogates the law, the courts, and everything that this country has set up for passionless administration of justice. Every lynching is a little contribution toward anarchy.

Greeneville, Tenn., News-Bulletin
September 24, 1937

THE WRONG ATTITUDE

A Tennessee mob, shouting, "To hell with the law," recently wrested a colored prisoner from the sheriff of the county, spirited the luckless black away, strung him up to a tree, and riddled his body with bullets.

No sane man condones lynching. There is no defense either in law or morals for such crime. But, setting aside the act of this mob, there is food for thought in the attitude of those composing the mob.

There is too much of this "To hell with the law" attitude in the United States today. It can be found in virtually every phase of our life—social, political, industrial, ethical, even along religious lines.

Such attitude bodes ill for those who hold it, and also for the nation in which it exists. When we lose respect for law, when we hold in contempt the processes of law, then are we heading straight toward trouble which may border anarchy.

The individual in an organized society must submerge many of his own personal inclinations to the good of society as a whole. The result is that we have what are known as laws to govern our conduct. Such laws may not be perfect. Few of them are. But let us concentrate on making better those rules and regulations which govern society, rather than disregard law and hinder its enforcement because we do not agree with its provisions.

Lynchings - 1937
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

5556

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
July 22, 1937

Governor Was Correct

Florida's Governor Fred P. Cone was right when he said this week's double lynching at Tallahassee "looks like a lot of carelessness by somebody."

He said the deaths of the two Negro victims were "murder, not lynching." Every lynching ought to be subjected to the same investigation and court procedure as murder. But every one is not.

Lest some of the newspapers and some of the individuals who have criticized The Telegraph in the past for its attitude on lynchings still misunderstand: There is no doubt that many men who are lynched deserve the punishment of death as long as capital punishment stands on the statute books. There is no doubt that delays, uncertainties and the possibilities of legal wrangling in the courts impel some persons to try to take justice into their own hands.

But every lynching weakens authorized law. Many lynchings involve the risk of punishing an innocent man. If the reliability of justice in trial by jury is so doubtful that the public can't depend on it in crucial cases, it's not worth having in ordinary cases and the whole jury trial system might as well be discarded.

Who wants that?

Under strict administration of justice in the courts the guilty and the innocent would be served far better than by mob rule. And if lynchers took as keen an interest in jury service, in seeing that delays and legally technical maneuvers are eliminated, as they do in forming mobs and storming jails, justice would be done in court.

In the Tallahassee case, the fact is that the lynchers probably thought their victims would not get the death sentence in court—if one credits them for thinking of anything beyond the murder thrill of killing. But giving them the benefit of the doubt, they may have believed the two Negroes deserved killing because they stabbed a policeman. The policeman was living when the lynching occurred, and certainly the Negroes would not have been given the death sentence in court had they been tried at that moment.

The Telegraph does not concede that so severe a penalty as death was warranted. But if it was, the law should be amended to cover such cases. Seriously, no majority of voters would favor any such amendment. Then why should a comparatively small group of men in a mob undertake to administer a punishment that the public would not enact into law?

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 21, 1937

Double Murder

Two Negroes, each about 18 years old, were taken from jail at Tallahassee, Fla., Monday night. Their shot-riddled bodies were found not far from the capital near the Jacksonville Highway.

The early stories of this double murder, as gathered by The Associated Press, were even vaguer as to just how this crime against all the people of Florida and the United States and against all law, occurred, than are the usual early accounts of such affairs. Nothing much, except the death of the Negroes, seemed definite. Everything was a "report." It was said there were reports that a band of men entered police headquarters . . . and forced an officer to accompany them at gun point to the county jail and get the two Negroes out of their cells."

Later this account seemed to be upheld. The county jailer said he found a police desk sergeant locked inside the cell block.

The Negroes are said to have confessed stabbing a policeman, who is reported seriously wounded.

Placards found at the scene of the lynching bore such statements as "Warning, this is what will happen to all Negroes that harm white people." The lettering on the placards was crude, with the "e" turned backwards.

The state's attorney is quoted as saying—not very confidently or resolutely, it seems to us—that "we're going to investigate this thing as far as we can. We're trying to get the parties who are responsible for it."

The simple recitation of these "reports" seem to constitute the most devastating indictment of this aboriginal crime.

The double lynching becomes another provocation or invitation to the federal government to attempt to do what some states have not yet succeeded in doing.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
July 21, 1937

JUNGLE RULE AGAIN

FLORIDA WAS DISGRACED again early Tuesday when an armed mob of masked men took two accused negroes from the county jail at Tallahassee and riddled their bodies with bullets.

As Gov. Cone properly said, "This is not a lynching; it was murder." He could have added murder by a cowardly band too craven even to execute its victims with faces bared to public view.

It is to be hoped that the governor will stick to his promise to "prosecute to the limit" those charged with this ghastly crime. For years, Florida and other southern states have struggled to rid themselves of lynch law, and some measure of success has rewarded their efforts, at least to the point where the number of such outrages has been decreased.

But periodically, apparently as a throw-back to the days of jungle rule, lynching rears its ugly head and another black mark is chalked up to lawlessness and disorder in this and other states. The perpetrators should be apprehended and swift justice meted out to them. It is not alone that they have committed the crime of murder, but they have hurled open defiance at the orderly processes of law in this state. There should be no temporizing with the culprits.

Meanwhile, St. Petersburg hardly is in a position to cast any smug reproaches at the state capital for occurrences there. Events of this week have produced a revival of the sinister, hooded figure of the night-marcher.

Publicity attendant upon this incident will do the city irreparable harm everywhere throughout the north in the areas where St. Petersburg is so dependent upon the good will and respect of the people for its continued growth and development as a great tourist center of Florida.

For this disfavor, the city may thank those who treated it to the shameful episode of Monday night.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
July 21, 1937

THE WORST OF ALL

The double murder at Tallahassee Tuesday morning when four men—"two stout men and two short men"—forced the night sergeant to accompany them to the jail, unlock several doors and surrender two negro youths, to be riddled with bullets, is about the rawest thing Florida has known in a generation. It happened four blocks from the capitol. The youths had stabbed a policeman, who is in a critical condition.

That crime was worse than lynching; it was premeditated murder.

Cowardly things like that make it impossible to prevent the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill. And why should not some capable authority take a hand?

Columbia, S. C. Record
July 21, 1937

Florida Joins the Debate.

Florida adds new fuel to the flames and presents the proponents of federal anti-lynching laws with one more argument in support of the enactment of the pending anti-lynching bill by lynching two negroes, accused of stabbing a Tallahassee policeman.

The prisoners were taken from the county jail, two blocks from the state capitol—which is a symbol of the state that will do nothing about the lynching.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
July 20, 1937

An Unfortunate Incident in City's Record

The lynching last night was unfortunate. Tallahassee has an enviable record as a law abiding city and so long as the orderly procedure of enforcement is functioning it does not promote the city's prestige in the eyes of state and nation to adopt extra legal means for the enforcement of justice.

The victims who confessed attempted murder deserved the punishment, but that is not the point. Some will believe that the shooting of the negroes was entirely justified by the circumstances

but the point of view does not take into consideration the Capital City's position and the effect of adverse publicity.

As lynchings go, last night's was about as free from the usual unsavory angles as any we have heard about. The method adopted was quiet, orderly, free from violence to police officers, forcible entry to the jail and from torture. But it was illegal and, as such, it cannot be condoned.

The causes behind lynching are complex. First we must contend with the aftermath of reconstruction days when extra-legal steps were absolutely necessary. Many men now active took part in the earlier enforcement of the laws of humanity without benefit of statutory authority. It is not easy for them to break old habits now that the necessity is removed. Too, we have the tremendous force of resentment against such crimes as the cowardly attack upon a highly respected and well liked officer of the law. And there is a force that grows from impatience at the law's delays.

There are two trends in our current history that serve to intensify the lynching spirit. One is the intrusion into southern law courts of outside legal counsel, hired by fanatics and communists in the big cities to delay trials such as that of the Scottsboro case. The other is the ill advised bill pending in congress.

Lynching is and has been on the decrease in the southern states. The only way it can be curbed is through public opinion and education and under the influence of those forces examples of mob violence have been growing steadily fewer.

The outsiders meddling into court trials, the interference of proposed federal laws will make the situation infinitely worse and may even result in making lynch law necessary again. The point is illustrated by the present case: Punishment either of the county or of the sheriff which would be imposed under the proposed statute, would be unjustified since there is no evidence that either the people of Leon county or its officers were at fault last night.

The only criticism that can be made is that keys to the jail were too readily available. It may be that long years without trouble led to the practice of keeping keys at a place with little defensive facilities but, in future, in seems to us that it would be the point of wisdom to wake the night jailer when necessary to place prisoners in safe keeping.

Probably the worst effect of such incidents as this is the stimulation it gives to organizations such as that which is now interfering in the Alabama Scottsboro cases. Radicals use lynchings as fuel to build fires under our legal processes, to incite bitterness toward the south and its institutions, to raise funds to send meddlers into our communities and to sponsor such legislation as that now pending in congress.

We may be able to eliminate lynch law from our section in time but if anyone thinks it can be done easily by "passing a law" he is mistaken. The process must continue to be slow and must be accompanied by speedier court action, a growing respect for legal institutions and a minimum of interference from outside.

Batesville, Miss., Panolian
July 15, 1937

LET US STAY THAT WAY

Just after the regrettable Duck Hill lynching in this state, a Syracuse, N. Y. newspaper came out with the following sarcastic editorial:

'Mississippi was admitted to the Union in 1817. Why, no one knows—And if the state continues to progress in civilization as rapidly as it has in the past, the next 1,000 years should see it take rank along with other states."

Answering on behalf of Mississippi we might say that we were admitted to the union for several reasons.

1 Because New York couldn't keep us out.

2 In order to lift the general level of civilization throughout the nation, brought so low by such states as this same New York.

3 To provide a place to mature and breed a pure Anglo-Saxon race, the hope of the world, rather than a polyglot nationality such as New York has always had.

4 To produce statesmen and thinkers who could then, and who can today, take the measure of any man from New York.

5 To produce a population that has grown to over two million citizens—perhaps not as rich in money as New York, but far richer in many other ways—rich in the pioneer spirit, in heritage, in love of living, in simplicity, in hospitality and gentility, in levels of character and civilization.

New York is a state of rackets, of chiseling, of lousy practices, of a conglomeration of nationalities, of crime of every description.

It is cold blooded, hard hearted, selfish.

The dollar rules 24 hours of the day.

Dozens of families live huddled up under one apartment roof and don't know their next door neighbor.

Down here in Mississippi, the loving hands of friends and relatives bury our dead.

Up in New York, hired mouners and hired pall bearers in many cases perform these last rites.

Miami, Fla. Herald
July 21, 1937

IN Tallahassee, the capital of Florida, two negroes were taken from the protection of the law and lynched. In Washington, the capital of the United States, the attempt to lynch the constitution may be prevented by the courageous stand of Democratic senators. The law may prevail. As mild compromise talked. Save the party. And the nation.

THE law is lynched when men are lynched. Within the shadow of Florida's capitol building two young negroes were removed from the security of the jail by hooded figures, taken outside the city, and shot. They were charged with stabbing a policeman while resisting arrest. But the lynchers stabbed more than a man; they stabbed the foundations of government. And the law abjectly failed.

WHILE cultured, educated, civilized United States has lynched six negroes in six months, it has killed thousands by motorcars; hundreds have been murdered. New Yorkers find the body of a slain French servant woman, shot and apparently thrown from a car, beside the Harlem river speedway. Bodies tossed here and there. It is criminal for mobs to execute criminals. It is no better—this epidemic of slaughter. America needs a revival in the heart and head; new respect for law and human life.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
July 22, 1937

ANOTHER LYNCHING OUTRAGE

THE people of Florida owe it to themselves and to the South as a whole to hunt down and drastically punish the members of the mob that staged the double-lynching in that state Monday.

The negroes who were the victims of this outrage had not been convicted of the crime of which they were suspected, which, it may be observed, was not "the usual crime" in which lynch law is invoked.

Following close upon the heels of another lynching, in which the victim was put to death with a blow torch in Mississippi, this act complicates the fight that Southern representatives are making to prevent the enactment of the proposed anti-lynch bill that will largely increase federal authority in Southern states.

The decent people of Florida who have been outraged in this manner should not rest until those guilty of this atrocious crime have been arrested and punished as severely as the law allows.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5557

Selma, Ala. Times
February 5, 1937

Investigations of lynchings such as the one that has just occurred in Henry County, have proven so futile in the past and have only aided in besmirching the name of the state, we suggest that a better remedy would be for every good citizen when he reads about these outbreaks to hang his head in shame and indulge in three minutes of silent prayer.

Vicksburg, Miss. Post
February 3, 1937

Governor White congratulates sheriffs and peace officers of the state on the spotless lynching record in Mississippi for 1936. This is the first year without a lynching in the state "since the turn of the century." The governor hopes a similar record will be set up this year.

Jackson, Miss. Ledger
February 3, 1937

Merited Praise For Sheriffs For 1936 No-Lynching Record

Governor White sends a letter to all Mississippi sheriffs congratulating and commending them on their part in Mississippi's achievement of a record of no lynchings during 1936.

"This is the first year since the turn of the century that Mississippi has been without a case of lynching at the hands of a mob," he wrote the sheriffs. "Realizing that this enviable record could not have been made without continuous vigilance and vigorous enforcement of our laws on the part of our law-enforcing officers, I am taking this occasion to commend you upon your part in keeping our state free from unseemly mob action."

This executive recognition of the sheriffs' aid in making this record, and of the necessity of courage and vigilance by sheriffs in the prevention of lynching, is appropriate and timely.

Much credit for the perfect 1936 record for Mississippi must go to citizens who have worked to improve racial relations on a firm basis, to the women's organizations which have used their influence to make lynching unpopular, and to the newspapers which have also aided the fight to reduce mobbery in Mississippi. But much credit also must go to the sheriffs and deputies.

Education helps this work. These activities mentioned above help it. But, in the final analysis, when it comes to a show-down in any specific case, nothing is more effective as a deterrent to lynching than a courageous sheriff determined to protect his prisoner and to obey his oath at all costs.

All good citizens of both races join in Governor White's wish and hope "that 1937 will be another year free of lynch law in Mississippi."

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
February 5, 1937

SHERIFFS AND LYNCHINGS

Every man in the Deep South knows that grand jury action against members of a lynching mob is an empty gesture. It means nothing except an increasing contempt for lawful processes and an increasing deference to the mob spirit.

The way to strike at the lynching evil is to strike at the county sheriffs. They love their jobs as well as their voting neighbors. There is nothing except his family that a jobholder loves as much as his job.

There isn't a sheriff in Alabama that given fair notice is not capable of preventing a lynching. Everybody knows that. Only in very exceptional circumstances is a sheriff helpless. A determined peace officer who has any sense knows how to stop a mob. Everybody in this State knows that is true.

It is all very well for Governor Graves to demand a grand jury investigation of the recent lynching in Henry county. That means that grand jurors, some of whom may have been in the mob, will return a no-bill. They nearly always do. Grand jurors are the neighbors and friends of lynchers. They are never likely to take vigorous action against mob killers. Petit juries are even less likely to take final action against neighbors who are known to have participated in a lynching, since the victim of the lynching invariably is the object of loathing by all good citizens.

But Governor Graves is hitting a home-run when he calls upon Attorney-General Albert Carmichael to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff of Henry county. That's the way to go after the lynch-loving yeomanry of our fair state. They don't like that. They can't handle it. They know that a negligent sheriff will be tried, not by jurors that helped lynch a man or at least lives next door to a lyncher, but by the Supreme Court of Alabama.

In other words, they know that a negligent officer must give an account of his conduct to the highest judicial authority in the State. He will get a fair trial, which is one reason that lynchers do not relish impeachment proceedings.

In demanding an impeachment trial of the sheriff of Henry county Governor Graves is acting in the best traditions of Alabama Governors.

The Governors of this State have always hated lynchings. The Advertiser, which is nearly as old as the State, does not recall a Governor who was indifferent to lynchings. It does recall that many Governors have been instrumental in impeaching many sheriffs for weakly condoning lynchings. The Advertiser is glad to reaffirm what it has frequently said before that Governor Bibb Graves has been one of the most diligent and courageous foes of lynchers that ever sat in the executive chair of a State that has never had a Governor who was indifferent to mob violence.

Only a stupid oaf would say that a guilty rapist could not be convicted by a jury and punished by the State. The danger always is that the wrong man may be killed. Due process of law is one of the noblest principles in the Constitution.

All rapists should suffer—no rapist has a chance to escape justice, if the evidence against him is sufficient.

Therefore, The Advertiser is glad to say to Governor Bibb Graves and Attorney-General Albert Carmichael, who desire only a fair trial of Henry's sheriff: Step on it!

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
February 3, 1937

THE LAW IN THEIR HANDS

In the year just ended there was no instance of mob violence in the state of Alabama, and for a number of years this state has been an example to its less thoughtful and law-abiding neighbors on all sides. However, early Tuesday morning a group of self-righteous citizens entered the jail at Abbeville, removed a lawful prisoner of the law and committed a

Every man, whether black or white, inside or out, regardless of his crime, has a right to a trial and, if the verdict warrants, to a decent death. As old as the south is the saying that examples must be made of negroes. It seems never to occur to lynchers that their actions set a far worse example than the crime of the

We have law in Alabama. We have

crime which has been condemned by Christian society since Stephen was stoned.

According to Henry county officers, the mob was orderly and quiet. It was not a group of drunks who pulled the unfortunate accused from his cell; it was a crowd of forty or fifty men who undoubtedly consider themselves pillars of Henry county society, and they were probably well satisfied with themselves when they left the haltered and bullet-heavy body at the side of the country road to go home to have out their sleep and most likely they slept well.

and decency mean little in Henry county.

Where there was one crime, there is now a total of more than forty crimes. And no figures in the world can be made to balance the one against the forty.

[illegible], Ala. [illegible]
February 4, 1937

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

Alabama has taken pride in her record of four years without a lynching, but was shamed this week when a Henry County mob removed a Negro from jail and put him to death. He was accused of the usual crime.

It makes no difference whether the accused was guilty or not. For the mob lynched more than a Negro. It lynched established law and order. And whether the mob knows it or not, it degraded the entire State.

An AP report from Abbeville says Sheriff Corbett, who was overpowered by the mob, recognized some of its 50-odd members. If this is true, then Governor Graves' order for a thorough investigation should have some teeth in it—and not curl up and die as so many similar investigations do.

Tarboro N C Southerner
February 3, 1937

Something New in Lynchings

In most particulars, the lynching yesterday near Headland, Alabama, of a strapping, 18-year-old Negro farm hand complied with the accepted formula for mob rule in the South. The victim, accused of assaulting a white woman, was being held in a jail which lacked a great deal of being mob-proof. Fifty men stormed it, held the sheriff and the jailer prisoner until the Negro could be removed from a cell, and later shot the alleged criminal an strung him to a tree.

Continuing the social graces demanded in all polite lynching parties in the South, Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery instructed Attorney General A. A. Carmichael to conduct an inquiry. Then the chief executive made the customary pronouncement: "As long as I am governor of this state, mob rule will not be tolerated."

At this point, however, there is a possbiility that the lynching formula will be discarded for something quite original. Under all conventional rules, the sheriff is supposed to say that he has not the slightest idea concerning the identity of any member of the mob; newspapers are supposed to fume and fuss over the lack of official initiative; the governor is supposed to declare that all possible attempts to solve the matter have failed and that the investigation is at an end, and finally, everybody is supposed to settle down to normal again and pretend that the lynching was just one of those unsolved and unsolvable crimes that couldn't be helped.

But Sheriff Louis Corbett upset the apple cart. Perhaps he is one of those individuals who do not care for the little conventionalities of life. Or maybe he is just plain dumb, and didn't know what was expected of a sheriff under the circumstances. At any rate, he stepped out of his role to remark that he recognized some of the men in the lynching party and that a special grand jury would be called to investigate. This little piece of forgetfulness of the social niceties incident to a lynching is likely to turn into a tough break for the sheriff, especially when re-election time comes around, but what of it? A man possessed of the originality of Sheriff Corbett is too original to be wasting his time on a sheriff's job anyway.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 27, 1937

Walter White's Campaign

Among the newer absurdities is the tale that a majority or even a strong minority of Southern white people wish a bill passed that would subject county sheriffs and other peace officers to trial in United States courts on allegations that they failed to protect prisoners in their custody from mobs.

Southerners, many of them, have fallen a long way from their oldtime faith and pride in the rights of their states to make and enforce laws against crime, but they have not fallen that far. Not yet.

It is not unlikely that some of the Southern congressmen would love to have a pretext to vote for the "anti-lynching" bill, so called. There is not much fight left in Southern congressmen. A few petitions from well meaning uplifters in the South would be welcomed by them. They hate the notion of opposing Wagner, Van Nuys, the president and the rest. It is pleasant to be in the swim with the dispensers of "allotments" and the controls of the new "Democratic" party in Pennsylvania and New York. It would delight them if the old South would surrender its last claim to the sovereignty of states.

The truth is that the Southern senators, a few like Glass, Bailey and Smith, excepted, are greatly harassed and annoyed. They are losing sleep of nights. They do not want to be "Southern Bourbons," as The News and Courier, for example, is.

What if Walter White, chieftain of the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, can bring enough pressure to bear on the Roosevelt senators and representatives of the North to cause them to transfer trials of white men in Edgefield and York to federal courts. If the white voters of South Carolina would but consent to government with the hand of Walter White (able negro he is) on the lever behind a screen it would bring some of our senators relief from anxiety.

Well, the people of York, grandfathers of the living people, had plenty of experience with federal courts, but most of it has been forgotten.

Lynching has about ended in South Carolina. We hope that never again will there be a lynching in the state. Federal court trials won't stop it. Federal interference with courts and control of elections caused fighting, bloodshed and what would be defined as "lynching" by Senator Wagner, but it did not destroy state rights. Almost war was necessary to save them, but Hampton and his Red Shirts saved them.

There are signs, plenty of them, that some of our own people want to give up that which cost their fathers so much to preserve, but they will come to their senses.

If this measure be passed, the first time that a sheriff of a South Carolina county is dragged off to be tried in a United States court there is going to be trouble. The nasty side of the matter is that if the federal government begin this interference innocent negroes will be victims.

In South Carolina and throughout the South are ruffians who would welcome the pretext to manhandle and kill negroes and when they have done it and the United States begins a war against it, some of us who hate the ruffianism will be found defending the ruffians, standing by them, lest we too shall be crushed by a foreign power.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., NEWS
FEB. 21, 1937 F23

90 Per Cent Drop Shown In Lynchings Since 1887

Patterson Attributes The Decline To 'Growth In Humanitarian Attitude Of People'

BY LEROY A. SIMMS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Feb. 20.—(AP)—A 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 was credited today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to "Growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 51 in the 1927-1936 span.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings were recorded as 1,000 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors, besides the more humanitarian attitude, as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as "the tendency for frontier characteristics in the south to disappear." Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the west and in the south.

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the south by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of the radio and paved roads.

As the third and one of the most important, he gave "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched. From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched."

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

"This growth, I believe, has paralleled the development of educational and social agencies, all of which bid fair to rid this nation of the barbaric practice of lynching."

Lynchings - 1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern

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Athens, Ga. Times
April 18, 1937

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MISSISSIPPI LYNCHING

The lynching of two Negroes at Winona, Mississippi, Tuesday by a mob of white men has placed in an embarrassing position every member of Congress who opposes enaction of a Federal anti-lynch law. The degree of that embarrassment and what it may lead to is reflected in the unprecedented action of Chairman Sumners, of the House Judiciary Committee, who Wednesday addressed to Governor Hugh White, of Mississippi, a telegram protesting against "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutality execute." — A note of warning is discernible in these words of Representative Sumners:

"It (the crime) will be seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the States to govern. As one Southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction, and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact, cannot escape in effect from becoming an accessory after the fact unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

If Governor White replies to Chairman Sumners by bringing "three lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment," he will provide at least a basis for the contention that Federal action in such cases is not necessary. A reasonable basis for that contention does not now exist. The repetition of lynchings is causing more and more people in this section to believe that such instances of brutality and terrorism should be regarded, not as a violation of the laws of a State, but as a crime against society itself and subject o prosecution under Federal laws

Chattanooga Times

Thomasville, N. C., News-Times
April 16, 1937

Once more Judge Lynch conducts the trial for two negroes, and this time adds horrors to their torture unheard of even in the days of the Inquisition—burning the victims with a gasoline torch before shooting them—and as might be expected the incident takes place in Mississippi, the most backward of any of the 48 states.

What effect the case will have on a Congress now debating the anti-lynching bill, is problematical; Congress is hard to arouse over anything other than the inconsequential, but it is to be hoped that the victims' death by new lynch law horrors may at least arouse enough indignation to pass the measure.

A race that taken as a whole is so ignorant that it never hears of half the lynchings that take place, is most assuredly not going to have the fear of God put in it by mob law. At least the theory has failed for the past 72 years.

Madison, Fla., Recorder
April 16, 1937

The torturing with a blow torch first and subsequent lynching of two negroes out in Mississippi Tuesday for murder and robbery had exactly the effect it might have been expected to have up in Washington, where the House of Representatives was then debating a Federal anti-lynching bill.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 16, 1937

wrongs never did make a and the fact that a Mississippi mob engaged in a particularly brutal lynching does not mean that congress should, because of it, impose the nefarious federal anti-lynching bill on the states.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 15, 1937

Southern Scene

William Faulkner, the novelist who has disturbed the South by depicting the degenerate and horrid aspects of Southern life, comes from Oxford, Mississippi. The lafest Mississippi lynching took place on Tuesday at Duck Hill, where a mob killed two men suspected of the murder of a storekeeper. They killed like this:

Townes . . . was tied to a stake near Windham's store and tortured slowly to death by flames from a blow torch.

Nothing Faulkner has ever written has been more terrible. No horror ever attributed to the South could be more ghastly than that white hand holding a blow torch to that Negro's body. No people anywhere could be more dreadful than the white men whose eyes watched that and permitted that. Take that scene and regard it as a part of this South of ours. Is it any wonder that at the very moment that monstrous scene was enacted men in the Congress in Washington were urging the passage of a Federal anti-lynching bill? Is it any wonder, when such things can happen in the South, that men out of the South are ready to believe any atrocious thing about the South?

. . . and tortured slowly to death by flames from a blow torch.

If it makes a decent man shudder to think of that Negro's fiendishly tortured flesh, what must a decent Southern white man feel when he thinks of men of his race not merely killing in anger but making a slow and sadistic festival of human torture? God help the South for it contains men like these! God pity the South for it contains hearts that can rejoice in such slow murder! In a South that contains such men and such hearts we may fear the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, but even more we should fear ourselves or our fellows who hold the blow torch against flesh. At a distance they are indistinguishable from other Southerners who are as sick over sadism and lynching as any decent law-abiding men anywhere.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
April 16, 1937

Southern mobs which burn negroes at the stake as they did in Montgomery county, Mississippi, the other night, are making it hard for other Southerners who are trying to prevent negro Congressmen from Chicago securing the enactment of federal legislation dealing with such matters. It is still our belief that the individual states are better equipped to cope with lynchings than Washington bureaucrats, but our case is weak in the light of those kerosene torches.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
April 17, 1937

TIMELY EXHIBIT

If a lynching had to occur, there could have been no more propitious moment than that chosen by Mississippi's double portion for forcing itself upon the country and a congress which is in the very act of trying to decide what to do about federal handling of this self-same barbarity.

The Bayou state's dual exhibit is as atrocious as even the most meticulous lynchers could demand. Three Negroes were seized, taken to the woods and tortured. One was dismissed, run out of the country after a severe whipping, and the other two were fed to the flames and the mob's fury.

The usual pattern was followed. The trio were intrusted to the custody of the sheriff and two deputies, who must have known the community's temper and been cognizant of the likelihood of violence, for escort from the courthouse, where they had just pleaded not guilty of the murder of a white planter, to the jail to await subsequent trial. The prisoners were, therefore, not only under protection of the law enforcement officers but were direct wards of the court.

To be sure, the high sheriff deplores the seizure, the court condemns the mobbery and avows that a determined investigation will be made and the governor and solicitor add their excoriation to what the jurist has to say. Concurrently, however, one of the officers from whom the prisoners were seized tells how the crowd surged upon them, how the mobsters were unmasked but how, quite unfortunately, he failed to recognize a single person.

That is the picture before the national house of representatives while southern honorables rant about states' rights, counter with attacks upon New York gangster deaths and fervently declare that progress is being made in elimination of the lynching evil and that education is the only

sure and satisfactory way to bring security to the persons of hapless victims. All of which may sound very well, but nothing like so effective as the ferreting out of a few mobsters by Uncle Sam's G-men and their subsequent arraignment in federal court.

All glory to education and its reformative processes; Mississippi's infuriated lynchers used a waiting school bus to carry two screaming Negroes to their death in flames.—Greensboro Daily News.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
April 15, 1937

LYNCHING LAW.

Members of the Mississippi mob who Tuesday burned at the stake two negroes in one of the worst manifestations of lynch law on record probably little thought that their actions would have a material affect on the fate of an important measure pending in congress, for mobsters never reason at all, least of all about anything as remote as Washington politics.

Yet this lynching could not have been better timed from the standpoint of the proponents of the anti-lynching bill in congress, which if enacted will put the government into a new local field, and is sure to cause friction and ill feeling, meritorious as its purpose may be.

No thinking person condones lynchings, and all who have studied the matter know that there is a certain section of citizenship in the South which is blamable, and for which all must suffer. Also, aggressive steps to combat this menace, both by education for law enforcement, and by force at times have and are being taken, and the situation is gradually improving from year to year.

Yet lynchings are in the words of Chairman Sumners of the judiciary committee, an intense southerner opposed to federal intervention in these local problems, "dastardly as cowardice can devise, and brutally execute."

And the one which occured this week in Mississippi, marring that state's otherwise perfect record for this year, is fuel to the fire of the zeal with which those of other sections would have the U. S. clamp down on the South in these matters.

Every lynching is regrettable and this one double so. It is regrettable not only because it was illegal, the wrong way to act, a re[illegible] to the law of the jungle, but because it may prove to be the "great example" which will be used to pass the federal anti-lynching law, which for all its high motives, is going to but complicate the intensify and already complicated and intense situation, on which slow but sure progress is now being made, which progress may be halted entirely with the coming into the picture of Federal intervention

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 15, 1937

The Lynchings In Mississippi

Any lynching is revolting and horrifying. But no act of mob violence in a long time has been so sickening and so outrageous to people with any civilized instincts at all as the two lynchings in Mississippi Tuesday. It is bad enough when a person is lynched without being tortured beforehand. But when men's bodies are burned with blow torches while the breath of life is still within them, it is unspeakably revolting.

Mississippi, the worst actor among all the states with respect to lynchings, has outdone even itself in these two lynchings. While it hardly behooves Alabama or any other state where lynchings still sometimes occur to point the finger of scorn at Mississippi, the people of no state can refrain from denouncing these atrocities.

The victims, accused of murdering a white man, may have been guilty or they may have been innocent. No one knows. Certainly the mob which lynched them did not know. But whether they were guilty or not does not matter. It only matters that this Mississippi mob has done the most heinous act of the kind recorded in this country in years.

We have got to stop this sort of thing in the South. If we cannot or do not stop it ourselves, it is certain that the federal government will step in under the authority of such a measure as the anti-lynching bill now before Congress.

If any good can come from such an act as that of this Mississippi mob, it will be that the people of that state will be so outraged that they will demand punishment of these lynchers and put a stop to lynchings altogether.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
April 17, 1937

THE MISSISSIPPI BLOW

Mississippi's blow torches are blowing a Federal anti-lynching bill through Congress at breakneck speed. A beast with a blow torch in his hand can make the defenders of local self-government more ridiculous than all of the inspired political philosophers of history.

THE LYNCH PROBLEM

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

The anti-lynch law, whatever we may think of it, seems on its way to enactment. This is the white man's move. The next is the colored man's move. In order to rid our civilization of this awful evil the colored people certainly have a great part to play—the main part—and they should not hesitate to do it.

The two crimes which provoke lynching are criminal assault and murder. The Negroes who commit these atrocities do not represent their race by a thousand blocks; it is the duty of the best element of that race to let the world know it.

I was reared among members of the race. Old Aunt Anne, my black mammy, used to put the lash on my back. Old Uncle Zeke stood guard around the old home while my father was at the front during the Civil War. These criminal assault fiends are a disgrace to the memory and deeds of Uncle Zeke and Aunt Anne, Uncle Charles and Aunt Charlotte.

To eliminate lynching let's go to the root of it all. Let the colored preachers and leaders of the race have a law observance day once a year and advocate law observance and pledge aid in apprehending the "lewd fellows of a baser sort" who act unworthy of the race to which they claim to belong. Let these leaders cry down from the housetops all lynch evoking crimes and prove themselves ready to assume the responsibility as well as the privilege of American citizenship conferred upon them by the Constitution.

They should let the world know that they do not want the parents of a criminal rewarded by county taxation for raising a semi-demon instead of a citizen while the parents of the unfortunate victim are left in sorrow and humiliation. They should help the white people to pull up these noxious weeds from among their race in a legal way.

White people are being taxed to educate the race and to furnish old age pensions for the race; white people also contribute funds through their mission boards to help evangelize the race; now let the race scorn a tax to reward parties in any way connected with crime and injury to any member of any family of the white race which has been and is today their real benefactors and friends

The first time such a tax is levied resentment toward the whole colored race will spring up unless the leaders and members of the race take a decided stand now to avoid it.

Jeffersonville, Ga. J. J. BENNETT.

DUCK HILL DENIES

Lynching Not in Town or By Its Citizens, Says Mayor

To The Commercial Appeal:

We, the people of the town of Duck Hill, Miss., deny all the charges made against us by the world, concerning the lynching of two negroes.

It is true that two negroes were lynched, but not at Duck Hill nor by Duck Hill citizens. The lynching took place about six or seven miles from Duck Hill. The citizens of our town did not have anything to do with it, and we are wrongfully accused.

It was bad all right, but listen, was that any worse than what the two negroes did? [illegible] whom they killed, Mr. George Sam Windham, was a good man, loved by everybody, both white and black. He was a Mason and was buried by his brother Masons. He was a good man in his place of business where he was trying to make an honest living, bothering no one.

His loving wife and children were away from him and home at the time of his murder, so when the shades of darkness fell upon him little did he think that he would be murdered. He went into his store, leaving his front door open, so that anyone might enter his place of business should they want to, but he did not know that anyone was around, so he decided to eat his supper, so he was opening a can of meat.

There were two negro murderers standing in readiness to take his life. With a shotgun Red Towns slipped to the front window, took dead aim and pulled the trigge that took away Mr. Windham' life, shooting him in the back. Th poor man fell to the floor helpless no one around that he could call o for help. The two negroes on th outside, in the shades of darkness entered the store and did rob thi man of his honest and lawful mone that he had labored for. There h lay on the floor bleeding and dy ing, no one to help him, at th mercy of two murderers. No which was the worse of the tw crimes? There is nothing more cowardly than taking a man's life by shooting him through a window at night. Now just apply this to your own family.

This was a surprise to our good and noble circuit judge and to our most able district attorney. As to our good sheriff, E. E. Wright, and his deputies, there are no braver or better officers. They were completely surprised at this action.

B. E. EMBRY, Mayor.
Duck Hill, Miss.

Lynchings-1937
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White Press, Southern.

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Gadsden, Ala., Times
April 19, 1937

LYNCHING AND THE CONSTITUTION

THE deplorable lynching of two negroes by a mob of stupid illiterates in Mississippi is comparable in its ultimates to the deplorable lynching of the United States Constitution by a mob of stupid lawmakers in the House of Representatives.

The Mississippi lynchers did violence to the civil law, bringing disgrace upon their state, while the equally excited mob in the House of Representatives did gross violence to the fundamental law of the land. In one respect they were worse than the Mississippi lynchers because they had taken a most solemn oath to uphold the constitution which they proceeded to lynch upon the floor.

Moreover, these congressional lynchers of the Constitution knew what they were about. They knew it not only because they were warned of the illegal nature of what they were doing, but, because they are men of education, they possessed an intellectual knowledge of the nature of the violation they were committing.

As Senator Borah has pointed out, the anti-lynch bill that has been given approval is a flagrant violation of the constitution. It seeks to give to the general government certain privileges that are clearly prohibited and which it has no more right to exercise than it has to tell the individual citizen what time he shall arise in the morning and retire at night.

The men voting for it knew also that the Supreme Court as now constituted, would throw it into the scrap-heap, but they ignored this and passed the act upon the theory that the court shortly is to be enlarged and that the new court, created to carry out legislative purposes instead of carrying out the provisions of the constitution, would place the stamp of approval upon it because of expediency and not because of its legality.

This makes vivid the warning of Senator Glass than an enlarged Supreme Court carries a threat to the very civilization of the South, and lends point to the grave warning of Congressman M. C. Tarver, of the Seventh Georgia District, that it threatens not only the election laws of the South, but points to the destruction of those laws under which necessary segregation is practiced in the South.

It is a first step in a crusade to destroy those laws under which whites and blacks are separated in schools, in hotels, in restaurants, upon trains and elsewhere, and throw them all together as has been done in the North. In sum, it is a movement to recreate in the South the conditions of a half century ago. And why? Because to do these things please certain negroes in certain states where the negroes hold the balance of political power.

Southern civilization is to be bartered for negro votes in doubtful states. That is the sum of it, as Senator Glass has seen, as Congressman Tarver has seen, and as has become clear to many other Southerners who are capable of seeing beyond the ends of their noses.

And one of the tragic phases of the situation is that no thought is being taken of the negroes in the South. What they may suffer through the recreation of the intolerable conditions of a half century ago enters not into the accounting of these white politicians who fawn at the feet of negro politicians and who seek to use both the whites and the blacks in the South as pawns in the scurvey game of fence-building for individual benefit.

Hickory, N. C. Record
April 21, 1937

FEDERAL ENCROACHMENTS

Southern solons who are fighting the anti-lynching measure which was passed so overwhelmingly by the House but which may be killed in the Senate, argue that their states resent the idea of Federal meddling with local affairs.

However, the way we all go after Federal funds belies the argument. The whole trouble is there is an alarming tendency to lean more and more heavily on the arm of Uncle Sam.

Then, too, due to laxness of local officers in probing lynching outrages as well as other crimes against society, many of our own people are being compelled to put their trust in Federal investigating agents whenever results are actually desired.

It is for such reasons that Federal bureaucracy is growing by leaps and bounds.

A revealing sidelight on this was provided the other day by Abraham Epstein, executive secretary of the American Association for Social Security, in an address before the association at New York.

Mr. Epstein was talking about old age pension systems, and he remarked that in too many states such systems have become "mere cogs in the state political machines."

"Grants are made frequently not on the basis of need, as the laws intend, but on the basis of political expediency," he said. "Politicians are outbidding each other with promises of bigger and better pensions in order to appease the appetite of organized selfish blocs."

Thus there is no uniformity between pension systems in the different states. Thus there are states in which the pension bureau is an acknowledged branch of political patronage. Thus there are states in which pensions are paid, not according to need, but according to what the winning candidates for office have felt it expedient to promise.

And as a result of all this, a great many people have come to feel that the old-age pension problem can be solved only by federal action.

This is typical of the situation in a great many other fields, and it is one of the most ominous signs in our whole political life.

Federal bureaucracy will continue to expand and grow until we succeed in making our state governments efficient, responsive and trustworthy.

Orangeburg, S. C., Times & Demo
April 21, 1937

A HORRIBLE CRIME

The story of the lynching of two Negroes in Mississippi last week is that of a horrible crime. Those who were responsible for it should be vigorously prosecuted and punished.

Such acts as these, while not as numerous in the South as our critics would pretend gave impetus to the proposal before Congress for a Federal law against lynching.

Southern states should insist that those charged with crime be tried according to the law of the land and should punish lawless individuals who seek to constitute themselves into a court and inflict punishment.

Lawless murders are not confined to the South, however. Various criminal "gangs" in other sections of this country commit crimes just as great and oftentimes under circumstances which constitute them "lynchings" just as the lawless killings of the South are termed.

The Mississippi lynching was brutal and cruel to an unusual degree. The men who planned it and carried it out deserved punishment. If a state is powerless to punish such happening wo do not know that it shold complain too much if some other government tried its hand to stop such barbarities.

Carrollton, Ga., Times
April 15, 1937

Carroll County has had no lynching since the close of the war of the sixties; nor is she expecting one. Two negroes were taken from jail and lynched here during the later months of that war, by a squad of Confederate soldiers who came here from Dallas, Georgia.

York, S. C., Yorkville Enquirer
April 16, 1937

The lynching of two negroes by a Mississippi mob this week, was entirely uncalled for, and every man who participated in the outrage should be arrested, tried and convicted and severely punished. It was just a cold-blooded murder of men already in the hands of the law, and helpless in the hands of a blood thirsty and uncontrollable mob. While we are unable to see how a national anti-lynching law might stop or prevent a single lynching, we do see how such acts as was pulled off in Mississippi this week, will bring a national anti-lynching law just that much nearer.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
April 18, 1937

Crime By Criminals

In the face of the ghastly spectacle which [illegible] made at Duck Hill, Mississippi, last week when it lynched a Negro with a blow torch, it may be difficult for men and women outside of the South to believe him, but Representative Sumners of Texas, did not exaggerate when he declared that "there are no people anywhere who are more sincerely opposed to lynching than are the better people of the South." Furthermore, these Southerners have made a remarkable record of improvement for their section in reducing the annual toll of the victims of this species of savagery.

Lynching is not a crime resorted to, as is sometimes suggested, by the better element of Southern people in defense of the most precious aspects of Southern life and living. The law in the South is amply able to provide such protection. Lynchings in the South are committed, by and large, by the same sort of people who commit other crimes in the South. The lynching mob is a criminal mob and always a large proportion of its members are those elements in the community which live on the border between decency and crime.

The best people in the South—and such a phrase is shaped in no snobbery but in realistic regard for the facts—condemn lynching and are contemptuous of lynchers. And gradually the consciousness of the moral depravity of lynching sinks through the whole social order of the South. There was a time when the best people did take part in lynchings. That time has gone. Today lynchings are, in comparison with the past, rare crimes and lynchers are more and more indistinguishable from the violent criminals who everywhere are the ugly enemies of public safety and public peace.

St. George, S. C., Eagle
April 22, 1937

THE 100-PER CENTER

News and Courier:

The governor of South Carolina reiterates that he is "100 per cent for President Roosevelt." That is interesting, but it would be more interesting to know if he is 100 per cent for the so-called "anti-lynching" measures which the president is said to favor. The president has never uttered a word against these measures and a word from him would kill them dead. That he does favor them has been repeatedly published. If the congress shall pass an nati-lynching bill and the president shall allow it to become a law, will Governor Johnston be 100 per cent for it? Will he say as much? Or will he reduce his Roseveltism by 15 per cent when he speaks to the South Carolinians?

In the last three lynchings in South Carolina, in Aiken, Walhalla, and Union, the mobs were largely made up of people from cotton mill villages—or so it was said in the published accounts. There was no excuse for these lynchings. In the mobs were no presidents, secretaries or superintendnts of cotton mills, no lawyers, doctors, bankers, editors, no "economic royalists."

At whom are the anti-lynching bills aimed? They are certainly not aimed at the "aristocrats", the "silk-stockings", of the South. The Northern negroes are at the back of them. Is President Roosevelt against them? If he is, why does he not say so? It is difficult for a man like Byrnes ,like Russell, like Harrison, to be 100 per cent for Roosevelt—and they do not pretend to be although they adore the president.

The News and Courier agrees with Borah, the Republican, in this matter and will be 100 per cent against President Roosevelt if he shall approve a federal anti-lynching bill. It belivees that lynchers should be sent to the electric chair by juries drawn in their state courts. It is 100 per cent for South Carolina. It is NOT 100 per cent for any living man born of woman.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
April 3, 1937

The Peril Is Real

Last year, in the midst of the campaign for the reelection of Mr. Roosevelt, Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior, member of the president's "official family," speaking to a convention of the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, in Baltimore, said:

"Mr. Roosevelt is the first president since Lincoln to realize that the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments would as well not be in the constitution unless enforced." President Roosevelt did not at the time of the address or later repudiate the expression. If silence can assent, he has assented to it.

Enforcement of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments means "force bills" for the South.

A cabinet officer is an adviser of the president. Mr. Ickes is a cabinet officer.

If the president would oppose a force bill why doesn't he say so?

Repeatedly he is quoted as favoring the socalled anti-lynching measure. Back of that measure are the Northern negro voters led by Walter White, head of the society to which Mr. Ickes spoke.

If these dangers to Southern civilization to which Mr. Carter Glass has referred are not real and imminent. Mr. Roosevelt, the president, by a word can dispose of them.

The Sumter Daily Item rebukes The News and Courier for directing the attention of the people of South Carolina to the peril with which they are menaced by highest authority in Washington.

It will say nothing that will dispose of the peril.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 22, 1937

Gulf Coast Mystery

The latest double lynching in the state of Mississippi introduced some fancy elements well designed to sicken even a commonwealth of men with strong stomachs.

The thing worth attention, however, is not the variations of sadism that perverts can imagine, but the fact that Mississippi is separated only by an imaginary line from Alabama. Geographically and geologically the two states are very much alike. They were settled by the same racial stocks. Agricultural methods and products are similar and the historical experience of the two states runs along almost parallel lines. Yet Alabama in recent years has exhibited a stout, even violent, opposition to lynching, whereas Mississippi not only indulges it, but develops fiendishly cruel elaborations of murder.

The difference does not appear in the higher levels of life. Pat Harrison is as civilized a man as Oscar Underwood was and a good deal more urbane than Tom Heflin. The mystery is why the backwoodsmen of one state seem inclined to form their ideal of sportsmanship according to Irvin S. Cobb's Judge Priest, and those of the other according to William Faulkner's Popeye.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

ALABAMA'S TWO VIEWS OF THE LYNCH EVIL

There are two "schools of thought" in Alabama regarding lynch mobs. One believes in the summary execution of offenders against certain laws, particularly the law against assault. This school often controls the grand juries that are summoned to investigate the faithfulness of peace officers in the face of revolting crimes. It is a shallow and irresponsible school.

It is a school that is scorned by Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael—to the glory of Alabama.

Regarding the white-washing of an Alabama sheriff who is charged with negligence in the face of a mob that lynched a Negro accused of attacking a white woman, Mr. Carmichael published a statement in The Advertiser Friday morning in which he, on behalf of the Governor as well as himself, took high ground for that "school of thought" that scorns mob violence. Announcing that the State of Alabama would ignore the recent action of a grand jury in white-washing the accused sheriff, he said he would proceed to bring the sheriff before the Supreme Court for impeachment.

The Governor and the Attorney-General investigated the facts in this case carefully and are convinced that impeachment proceedings are justified.

In the course of his statement Mr. Carmichael wisely and forcefully says:

> The recent report of the Grand Jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The impeachment proceedings will proceed and will be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the Attorney General is capable of putting forth.
>
> The framers of our Constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.
>
> I want to take this occasion to say that the Governor of Alabama and the Attorney General of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter; that we are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama State officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character are doing their duty and will continue to do it.
>
> To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this State I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the Attorney General of this State, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great State at my command.

Without prejudice to the sheriff now under fire The Advertiser nevertheless commends the foregoing statement as representative of the best thought in Alabama, the only thought on the subject that in the long run can be trusted.

Let us stop lynching human beings in this otherwise civilized State! The only way to stop it is to strike at the officials who permit it.

Lynchings - 1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5560

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
June 11, 1937

In the course of an editorial discussion of the recent impeachment trial of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry county, in which he was acquitted by the Alabama supreme court, The Birmingham News indicates it is such occurrences as that in Henry which "tend to justify" a federal anti-lynching law. Of course it really is none of our business, but may we ask The Birmingham News if it favors the passage of either the Gavagan bill, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill or any other federal anti-lynching bill?

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
June 6, 1937

GEORGIA AND LYNCHERS

'Poor White Trash' Are Guilty Former Georgian Says.

To the Editor of The Chattanooga Times:

In the year 1851, the great state of Georgia in a majestic stride of progress built the first railroad into the wild wilderness of Tennessee at Ross Landing, thus discovering what is now Chattanooga. Chattanooga, therefore, is the last place in the world that should, or could, in good taste, "throw off" on Georgia. Yet, since I came to Chattanooga in 1897, a Chattanooga paper has done a good deal of that. It has called Atlanta a hot air town, built on Coca-Cola.

A seventy-mile radius from Atlanta, today, embraces more people and more wealth than any like area south of Washington. I was born in that queen of states in "slavery" days and knew the old south in its glory, when the world never knew better people, white and black. In Georgia we have them still, where there are more Negroes, mostly good ones, than in any other state. I don't know much, but I do know the Negro if anybody does. We loved them when we owned them and we've been their constant friends to this day. True, there are some very bad ones as well as some "poor white trash" and I've thorough knowledge of them. There is a reciprocal antipathy, hatred and contempt between and for these and that is where racial trouble begins and ends.

There are no finer people than the best ones of Bainbridge, Ga., and I'd stake my last dollar (if I had one) on the fact that "poor white trash" were the perpetrators of the atrocity there, that you've just referred to with an implied slur upon those who are as good as any that you live among. It's ludicrous and puerile to decry Georgia.

Another thought here: It doesn't matter whether the color is white, black, red or yellow and never did of the bestial wretch who would lay hands upon and ravish the wife of your bosom or the pure daughter of your heart. Would you be supine or a lyncher? It's a last resort that's reduced the crime 80 per cent. Take it or leave it. I am noncommittal.

G. P. MOORE.

Route 2, Ooltewah, Tenn.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
June 7, 1937

A Southerner on Lynching

ONE of the strangest explanations we have heard thus far of Southern lynchings comes from H. M. WILEY who lives at Wheeler, Texas, and is president of his County School Board. In a letter to the *Literary Digest* he declares that the Southern community frequently finds it necessary to resort to lynchings, "to be sure that justice is done"!

He qualifies his assertion by saying that "no right-thinking person cares to go on record as defending outright our lynch practice in the South"—this statement is almost always made by apologists for the system—but immediately thereafter he goes on to say that lynchings are needed "to be sure that justice is done."

In view of the enormous number of innocent persons who have been lynched in the South during the past 50 years, MR. WILEY'S invocation of the fair name of "justice" in extenuation of these barbarities, is remarkable, to put it mildly. One infers from his argument that guilty Negroes in the South are often not convicted, and that consequently it is necessary, as he puts it, to attend to them in "the quick, easy and cheap way."

The only case he mentions to illustrate his point that "justice" is not done in the courts, is the Scottsboro case. It appears that in that case, a "misguided bunch of kind-hearted citizens up North" interfered with the processes of "justice" by sending "a set of smart criminal lawyers and several thousand dollars down here." The fact of the business is, of course, that the Scottsboro Negroes are innocent, and that if it had not been for the above-mentioned "misguided" citizens, they would have been either lynched or electrocuted long ago.

All of which is additional cumulative evidence on behalf of a Federal anti-lynching bill. If a citizen who is president of his County School Board can indulge in this sort of weird reasoning, the need for Federal action is even more apparent than it was before. Certainly if the attitude exemplified by MR. WILEY is general throughout the South, the prevalence of lynching is easily explained.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
June 8, 1937

Lynching the Wrong Man?

The Alabama Supreme Court has found, after a three-day trial, that Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, Ala., from whose custody a Negro named Wes Johnson was taken by a mob in February and subsequently lynched, was not guilty of negligence and cowardice. The sheriff himself testified that he had merely locked the prisoner up, like any other prisoner, and had taken no special precautions, though the crime with which he was charged was an attack on a white woman. It was duck soup for the mob to break into the jail, get the prisoner, carry him out and murder him. But the Supreme Court has said that the sheriff was not negligent and cowardly, and that verdict stands.

It does not, however, settle everything. Midway of the trial the Attorney General of Alabama, acting in this case as the prosecutor, sprang a "surprise:"

> [He] charged that the mob lynched "the wrong Negro" and stated he was prepared to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt by evidence and testimony "unimpeachable anywhere throughout Southeast Alabama." Mr. Carmichael [the Attorney General] declared he could show that because of the tenseness of popular indignation and feeling that the sheriff was "forced," the pressure brought to bear on him being so great because of the existing situation, to arrest "the wrong Negro." He stated further he would be able to show that the victim of the alleged assault placed the time of the attack as between 11:15 and 11:30 a. m., on January 30, and that Johnson at 11:30 was four miles away.

This statement was immediately attacked by defense counsel on the ground that it had nothing to do with the trial. The court agreed, ruling that the question before it was whether the sheriff was negligent and cowardly, not whether the prisoner was guilty. Accordingly no evidence was produced to substantiate the Attorney General's charge that the prisoner lynched was "the wrong Negro.

Nevertheless, even though the sheriff is now held to have done his duty in protecting the prisoner, it ought to be obvious that the question unanswered is as important as the question answered. The Attorney General is presumably a responsible official. He has made a remarkable statement relating to what he asserts is a remarkable mistake. What is Alabama going to do about that? Let it go, as just an unfortunate mistake? Or get to the bottom of the matter?

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
June 6, 1937

Impeaching a Sheriff.

"There are two 'schools of thought' in Alabama regarding lynch mobs," says the Montgomery Advertiser. "One believes in the summary execution of offenders against certain laws, particularly the law against assault. This school often controls the Grand Juries that are summoned to investigate the faithlessness of peace officers in the face of revolting crimes. It is a shallow and irresponsible school. It is a school that is scorned by Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael—to the glory of Alabama."

The Advertiser is moved to this comment by the fact that Governor Graves of Alabama instructed Attorney-General Carmichael to bring impeachment proceedings in the State Supreme Court against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County, and the Attorney-General acted promptly. Sheriff Corbitt is accused of "neglect, grave fault, connivance and cowardice" in connection with the lynching of a Negro whose bullet-riddled body was found on the morning of February 2.

Sheriff Corbitt's case was placed before a Grand Jury but no indictment was returned. Then it was that Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael took a hand and impeachment proceedings were filed. State Investigator McClung has testified before the Supreme Court that the Sheriff told him he knew some of the men who forcibly took the Negro from the jail. The Attorney-General has offered to prove that public indignation was so great that the Sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong Negro, and therefore that the wrong Negro was lynched. But the Court ruled such testimony incompetent.

If all the charges are true, an innocent Negro was put to death and the Sheriff connived

of the crime. If he is guilty he is, of course, unfit for the office he holds and should be removed as soon as possible. But what of the members of the mob that lynched the Negro? It is well enough to punish a faithless Sheriff but the mobsters also should be brought to account. The law-abiding public will be thoroughly convinced of the sincerity of the desire and the efforts of Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael to suppress mob lawlessness in Alabama if they will proceed to hunt down the members of the mob that took a Negro from Sheriff Corbitt and killed him. Since the State Investigator has stated that the Sheriff said he knew some of the lynchers, it should be possible to find some of them.

Danville, Va., Register
June 6, 1937

'THE WRONG NEGRO'

The ruling of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama that it makes no legal difference whether or not the victim of a lynch mob was guilty of the crime of which he was accused is undoubtedly based on sound law. Guilty and innocent alike are entitled to the protection of government from the hands of mobs, and mobsters who kill either the guilty or the innocent are guilty of murder.

But in this particular case the enlightened people of the South will regret that the Chief Justice, presiding over the trial of a sheriff for neglect of duty in permitting a Negro to be lynched, did not allow the Attorney General to continue when he said he had evidence to prove that the mob LYNCHED THE WRONG NEGRO.

It makes no difference to the legally trained mind whether a mob lynched the "wrong" Negro or the "right" Negro. But it would make a tremendous lot of difference to the people of the South, we hope, if the Attorney General proved by "evidence and testimony unimpeachable in all Southeast Alabama" that an Alabama mob slaughtered a Negro who had never committed any crime. And it would make some difference, we believe, to the men whose hands are stained with blood to know beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was the blood of an innocent man.

So, though the evidence the Attorney General has gathered was not competent in the trial of a sheriff charged with permitting a prisoner to be lynched, we hope that he will broadcast it throughout the whole of our Southland. For surely it should raise the question, when another mob gathers, as to whether the intended victim is innocent or guilty. And whenever men consider that question, they are willing to let the law take its course.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
June 8, 1937

Awaiting The Next Move.

An Alabama Supreme Court decision has freed Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County in that State of charges of "negligence, grave fault connivance and cowardice" in connection with the lynching of a young Negro last February. A mob estimated at fifty to one hundred men took the Negro from jail, hanged him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets. He was accused of assaulting a white woman.

Thus ends the impeachment proceedings brought against Sheriff Corbitt by Attorney-General A. A. Carmichael upon instructions of Governor Bibb Graves. The State argued that the front door to the living quarters of the jail was not locked, thus giving the mob easy access to the structure, to which the Sheriff replied that he had no reason to fear a mob and that he was surprised at midnight and "covered with shotguns" when he awakened. The State charged that the Sheriff "went back to bed and to sleep," while he said he got his Chief Deputy and rode the remainder of the night in search of the mob.

Sheriff Corbitt has been freed of the charges and will retain his office. The effort of Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael to remove him has failed. But the fact remains that the Negro was lynched and possibly that he was innocent of the crime for which he was done to death, as the State asserted and offered to prove. The Supreme Court ruled that testimony as to his innocence would be incompetent but perhaps it would not hold incompetent testimony as to the guilt of members of the mob.

The names of nine men were mentioned during the three-day impeachment trial as having been seen in the Henry County jail the night the Negro was seized by the mob. Here is a clue for Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael to work on, if they are earnestly interested in upholding the law in Alabama. They have failed in their attempt to remove Sheriff Corbitt but they might succeed in a well-directed attempt to bring some of the members of the mob to justice. And after all, a few lynchers in the penitentiary might have a more salutary influence in the State than a Sheriff out of office. There will be interest in awaiting the next move of the Governor and the Attorney-General in connection with the mob murder perpetrated some four months ago with perhaps an innocent man as the victim.

NOTE ON A GREAT SILENCE.

That great silence to the south of us must be Mississippi's official [illegible] in that double lynching atrocity, committed to a blow torch accompaniment, which occurred some weeks ago at Duck Hill and which precipitated such condemnation and promises for retributive action in the immediate wake of its occurrence.

You recall how it was, in accordance with the generally accepted southern pattern? The governor condemned the barbarity, the attorney general condemned it, and the court from whose jurisdiction the victims were literally snatched by the mob condemned it. All joined in fervent promises of an investigation and a bringing of the mobsters to taw.

If these declarations of indignation and avowals of ultimate justice have got beyond the promissory stage, they have been completely lost in a southern press which would recognize them, above all others, as genuine news and take greatest delight in broadcasting such an unusual and unexpected turn of official events to the world at large.

Mississippi's dual lynching is going the way that practically every other southern lynching has gone. North Carolinians know full well what we are talking about. That Pender county mobbery which occurred several years ago was condemned in precisely the same fashion. Governor Ehringhaus scored mobbery, ordered an investigation and instructed the solicitor to submit a report. And there the matter rests, as still as Dock Rogers' body rested when it was deposited upon the courthouse lawn. The same procedure is subsequently recalled in Franklin county.

But, orate the southern honorables, we do not need any federal anti-lynching law. This is a matter for the states, a matter that they can and will handle in their sovereign capacity. And the echo, reverberating for the present in Mississippi recesses, flings back its mocking rejoinder.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 8, 1937

In The Deep South

Four Negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of this year.

The record is exactly where it stood this time last year.

But the unfortunate thing about this year's record is that the four Negroes were lynched in the three states that most persons associate in their minds with lynchings.

The guess is right. Two of the lynchings were in Mississippi, one was in Georgia, and the third was in Alabama.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
July 6, 1937

The mob spirit can be aroused anywhere but it is somebody's business to keep it under control once it has been stimulated into the flare that it inevitably will assume under certain provocative happenings.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 27, 1937

The Unwelcome Guest

Comes Borah, Republican, of Idaho, born in Illinois, offering a constitutional amendment limiting the "due process clause" of the Fourteenth amendment, so that the states would "have full power to handle social and economic problems within the states."

(The Northern negro newspapers refer to him as "Pro-lynch Borah," because he opposes the Wagner bill.)

The Fourteenth, the "Reconstruction amendment," was proposed in 1866; twenty-three Northern states ratified it, and ten Southern states rejected it—but later the ten also ratified it, after the "Radicals," by the Reconstruction of acts of their congress, had bound them hand and foot and delivered them into the band of legislatures and governors who were carpet-baggers, scalawags and negroes.

That is the amendment that Borah would in large part repeal.

So comes Borah, this brilliant Northern senator. Suppose he had come into the Democratic camp fifty-five years ago, how he would have been welcomed by the Southern Democrats! How Hampton and Butler, Lamar, old Isham Harris, Reagin of Texas, Ben Hill of Georgia, would have welcomed him! Fighting your battles they were sorely pressed. They needed friends. They had Democratic friends in the North Voorhees, Hendricks, The "Old Roman" Thurman, and the like of them, but a great Republican senator and constitutional lawyer, how they would have welcomed him!

Do your Southern senators now welcome him to their camp? Or is it their camp that he comes to?

Think you that Robinson of Arkansas, Bankhead and Black of Alabama, Harrison of Mississippi, Russell of Georgia, Byrnes of South Carolina, Sheppard of Texas, want Borah around? Is he not a thorn in their flesh?

"Ben" Tillman would have welcomed him when the Crumpacker bill was before the congress—but not these senators of the South of the "new order." Not they. The Fourteenth amendment is good enough for them, for it is good enough for the "greatest of all presidents".

Do these Southern senators, save Carter Glass, Byrd, Bailey and a few others, want "states to have full power to handle social and economic problems within the states"? Not they. They would have the "social and economic problems" handled by the United States, with laws framed by Wagner of New York city, "Joe" Guffey of Pittsburgh, Van Nuys of Indianapolis, and their kind.

In a camp of Southern "Democrats" (1937) an enemy of the "Reconstruction amendment" and champion of state rights is an unwelcome guest.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 26, 1937

One Citizen of Henry County Protests Mob Action

Editor of The Eagle,

The Sunday issue of your paper carried a reply to a certain citizen of Abbeville who endorsed the recent lynching in Henry County. Your comment was that he doubtless reflected the sentiment of the community. Please allow me to say he possibly represents a large segment of public sentiment here, but does in no manner speak for everyone.

The day following this unfortunate occurrence the writer prepared an article for the county paper concerning it; but at the advice of a friend its publication was withheld till "all the facts were in." Such advice was sound and my acceptance of it now enables me to write more intelligently and perhaps less dispassionately. All the facts are evidently in now, inasmuch as those responsible for settling the matter seem to regard it as a closed issue.

Two pertinent facts that have trickled out of the extreme secrecy that has veiled the case are these: Nine members of the lynching party have been positively identified by the sheriff of the county; a jury called for the sole purpose of making "a thorough" investigation reports that it has no indictments to make.

Attitudes toward these facts and their interpretations may vary but their baldness remains.

The heinousness of the Negro's crime is appreciated by everyone, and it did not require a lynching to impress the fact on our minds. That swift and sure justice was in order no one doubted, and if there had been no other alternative any fair-minded person could have endorsed the method used. However, it requires little imagination to feature the fate that would have been the Negro boy's had he come before a jury of white men from this county.

If the Christian's Bible condones such monstrous and primitive practices my decades of Bible study have been in a measure abortive. Paul's admonition: "Avenge not yourselves beloved, but give place unto wrath; for it is written vengeance belongeth to me. I will recompense, sayeth the Lord," is not altogether a New Testament point of view, as will be observed by reading Deut. 32:35.

Nothing short of raw revenge could prompt a group of men to perpetrate such an act. In the humble judgment of the writer, no act can be justified by a Christian that does not reflect the spirit of Christ; that Southern chivalry can best be preserved by unimpeachable conduct in the lives of its male citizens, and a mental and moral equanemnity that can wait for orderly and legal means of justice.

(Rev.) E. E. JOHNSON.

Abbeville, Ala.,
Feb. 24, 1937.

Lillington, N. C., News
February 25, 1937

LAW OVER LYNCH LAW

(Christian Science Monitor)

There is no crime so bad but lynching makes it worse. One didn't need to mention the word around the jail in Florence, South Carolina, the other day to see that things looked as bad for an angry crowd as for a Negro in its clutches. News dispatches tells how close those aroused citizens came to being a party of a lynching.

But what seemed like mob murder in the making become an orderly step in the due process of law. First the sheriff appealed to the crowd to forego violence and give the law—and the man—a fair chance. Then the father of the young woman alleged to have been molested pleaded with fellow citizens to let the law have its way. With that the crowd put up its vengeance and gave the prisoner to the sheriff.

It is satisfying to see how effectively that indignant southern crowd was able to curb is actions. Mob emotions usually run wild at such a time. The facts emphasize how strong is the average individual's instinctive respect for law to which the sheriff and the father appealed in this outbreak. And whatever this proves for the individual it proves for people as a whole. The supremacy of collection reason over mob rule manifested in this episode helps to dispel a sectional libel predicated on the mistaken opinion that southern communities prefer lynching to law.

Lynchings usually get all the publicity they deserve. We hope the happening in South Carolina gets all the public notice it rightly de-

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
February 12, 1937

Advance In The South

That great progress has been made in the effort of the enlightened South to rid itself of the crime of lynching is demonstrated by the recollection of *The Columbia State* of that time in South Carolina when "a Governor in the latter part of the last century encouraged mobs by declaring he would, in certain cases, lead lynching parties; and when prisoners were surrendered to lynchers without question; and announcement made 12 hours in advance of the running of a railroad train to a lynching! The train ran and the lynching took place."

Humanity, decency and law do advance. Though too many lynchings continue to take place they are nowhere countenanced by the power of the State and, though officers are sometimes still remiss in their duty, the growth of courage among Southern officers in defending their prisoners from lawless violence is a record in which the South may take increasing pride.

The best index of an increase in enlightenment is a decrease in lynching. Certainly no other index better measures the South's advance in enlightenment, in lawfulness, in humanity, and in the general level of its civilization.

Asheboro, N. C. Courier
February 25, 1937

U. S. Lynchings Show Steady Drop

Lynchings in the United States since 1887 have decreased 90 per cent, statistics of Tuskegee show. Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Institute, listed three major factors as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear. Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of radio and paved roads.

Third, "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period and 151 in the 1927-1936 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings totaled 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
FEB. 21, 1937 F22

BIG DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS DRAWS PRAISE

Tuskegee Head Credits Gain In Humanitarian Attitude

BY LEROY A. SIMMS

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 20.—(AP)—A 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 was credited today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 51 in the 1927-1936 span.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings were recorded as 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors, besides the more humanitarian attitude, as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as "the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear." Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of the radio and paved roads.

As the third and one of the most important, he gave "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched. From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched."

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

"This growth, I believe, has paralleled the development of educational and social agencies, all of which bid fair to rid this nation of the barbaric practice of lynching."

A table, from the institute's department of records and research, lists 231 lynchings in 1892, of which 162 were negroes. Succeeding years show lower totals, with 1932, with eight, and 1936, with nine, as the lows.

Of the 4,674 lynchings recorded since 1882, homicides were blamed in 1,921 cases; felonious assault in 198; Rape in 908; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227; insult to white persons in 81, and miscellaneous causes or cause unknown in 1,056.

MONTGOMERY ALA., ADVERTISER
FEB. 21, 1937 F25

Drop In U. S. Lynch Death Toll Is Noted

Changed Attitude Given Credit By Tuskegee President

Tabulation Made

Dr. F. D. Patterson Asserts 90 Per Cent Decline Since 1887

By LEROY A. SIMMS

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Feb. 20.—(AP)—A 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 was credited today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

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Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings were recorded as 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Three Major Factors

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear. Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of the radio and paved roads.

As the third and one of the most important, he gave "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

1914 To 1919

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched. From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched."

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

"This growth, I believe, has paralleled the development of educational and social agencies, all of which bid fair to rid this nation of the barbaric practice of lynching."

A table, from the Institute's department of records and research, lists 231 lynchings in 1892, of which 162 were negroes. Succeeding years show lower totals, with 1932, with eight, and 1936, with nine, as the lows.

Homicides Lead

Of the 4,673 lynchings recorded, homicides were blamed in 1,921 cases; felonious assault in 198; rape in 908; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227, insult to white persons in 81, and miscellaneous causes or cause unknown in 1,056.

Miscellaneous causes included being a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, discussing a lynching, misleading mob, enticing servant away, insisting on voting and gambling.

Mississippi was ranked first for 563 lynchings since records were started in 1882. Georgia ranked second with 515, and Texas third with 488, of which 143 were whites. Following came Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; Arkansas, 286; Florida, 272; Tennessee, 247; Kentucky, 209; South Carolina, 158; Oklahoma, 123, and Missouri, 121.

Other States

Other States, listed alphabetically, follow:

Arizona, 29; California, 43; Colorado, 68; Delaware, 1; Idaho, 20; Illinois, 31; Indiana, 47; Iowa, 19; Kansas, 54; Maryland, 29; Michigan, 8; Minnesota, 9; Montana, 84; Nebraska, 57; Nevada, 6; New Jersey, 1; New Mexico, 36; New York, 2; North Carolina, 98; North Dakota, 16; Ohio, 26; Oregon, 21; Pennsylvania, 8.

South Dakota, 27; Utah, 8; Virginia, 99; Washington, 26; West Virginia, 49; Wisconsin, 6; Wyoming, 35.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were listed as having had no lynchings since 1882.

Rocky Mount, N. C. Telegram
February 27, 1937

UP TO DIXIE'S SENATORS

The filing of impeachment proceedings against an Alabama sheriff as the result of the lynching of a 19-year-old Negro last week was at such variance with the customary procedure in such cases that it attracted nation-wide attention. We congratulate Governor Graves for his quick action in summoning a Special Grand Jury session to investigate the crime but, in the light of past experience, we shall be surprised if anything happens to the members of the mob. "In not one case in 10," says a report of the Committee on Interracial Co-operation, "is an effective effort made by the authorities to identify and prosecute the members of lynching mobs." It seems plain to us that the only way to wipe out the crime of lynching is by Federal action.

The several States of the South have had time enough to enact anti-lynching laws such as the one passed by Virginia a decade ago, but have not done so. There has not been a single lynching in Virginia, incidentally, since that law was passed. An increasing number of Southerners favor the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching bill. The Richmond Times-Dispatch last week printed a long editorial in favor of the bill. Its passage, however, will depend almost entirely upon the bloc of Southern senators. The issue is thus lifet squarely up to them.—The New Republic.

Buford, Ga., Advertiser
March 10, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

For a number of years Tuskegee Institute has been tabulating the returns of lynching and it is pleasing to observe that President F. D. Patterson reports that there has been a decline in mob action every decade since 1887.

Dr. Patterson gives three reasons for the decline and they are, we believe, sound observations. The first is the disappearance of frontier characteristics in the South; the breaking down of isolation in the South through the development of rural free delivery, increased communication facilities; paved roads and radio; the third, "increased agitation within the South against lynching."

While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynchings was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the Negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

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White Press, Southern -

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Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
April 16, 1937

LYNCHINGS AND THE PUBLIC

It remains to be seen whether the brutal lynching of two Negroes at Duck Hill, Mississippi, last Tuesday, causes in the Senate a revulsion of feeling strong enough to overcome the objections of many Senators to a Federal anti-lynching law. The Cavagan bill was passed in the House by a vote of 277 to 119—by more than two to one—but such action by no means indicates the Senate will pass it also. It will be recalled that the Dyer anti-lynching bill was passed by the House in 1922 by a vote of almost two to one. A filibuster of Southern Senators killed the bill in the Senate.

The rules of the Senate make the filibuster an easy device with which to block legislation, particularly when they are invoked and interpreted by Senators who, as in the case of anti-lynching legislation, are sympathetic towards the purpose of the filibuster. There is no reason to believe that Southern Senators are prepared to withdraw their objections to a Federal anti-lynching law. On the other hand, the latest mob crime in Mississippi has caused some Southern members of Congress to feel that if the States do not enforce laws against mob murders a Federal statute is inevitable. Chairman Sumners, of the House Judiciary Committee, is opposed to Federal anti-lynching legislation, yet he has warned Governor Hugh White, of Mississippi, and, indirectly, the Governors of all other Southern States, that Southern Congressmen will not be able to defeat anti-lynching bills if the States continue to permit lynchers to go unpunished.

Many people who believe a Federal anti-lynching law would be held constitutional (Senator Borah among others contends such legislation would be unconstitutional), fear that it would be ineffective. For example, they emphasize the fact that lynchings go unpunished in States with anti-lynching laws. The further contention is made that if State court jurors will not vote to punish members of mobs, Federal court jurors in the same community would probably be as lenient. The fear that a Federal law might not be effective has outweighed the obvious fact that State laws are practically worthless except where the literacy rate is high and the standard of living is considerably above the average. In backward communities, laws against lynching are ineffective because the people do not regard as a crime the killing of a Negro, even when members of a mob hold a blow torch to the Negro's body until death has released him from agony.

The "good citizens" who condemn such crimes seldom bring about the arrest and punishment of the lynchers. It is significant that the Mississippi District Attorney who is investigating the Duck Hill lynching has said he is "afraid nothing will come of the investigation." Despite the fact the crime was committed in the early afternoon by a mob of 100 men who took the Negroes away from Sheriff's Deputies almost at the entrance to a courthouse, the Deputies are apparently unable to identify any of their attackers.

If peace officers were made subject to criminal prosecution and to the payment of civil damages in such cases the fact that severe penalties could be imposed might act as a deterrent to mob terrorism. Sheriffs and Deputies might then be as careful in protecting their prisoners as they are zealous at times when they desire to make arrests. The collapse of law enforcement when mobs gather is causing more people to think it might be worthwhile to give to the Federal Government authority to prosecute lynchers and peace officers who are, through negligence or otherwise, accessories before or after the fact.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 15, 1937

Beastly!

The revolting episode that occurred in Mississippi Tuesday is one of the worst of its kind in Southern history. Two Negroes, who a few minutes before had pleaded innocent to a charge of killing a white man last December, were taken from officers of the law and tortured to death by an organized mob. Seldom in modern times have supposedly responsible men—if human they can be called—been guilty of an act so vicious, barbarous and beastly. It is almost unbelievable that such a thing could happen in a civilized country.

Gov. White had just been boasting that Mississippi had not had a lynching in 15 months when word came of the inhuman occurrence near Duck Hill. The House of Representatives in Washington was debating the Cavagan federal anti-lynching bill when Representative Cavagan was informed of the Mississippi lynching. He immediately took the floor and claimed additional evidence in support of his proposal. And many persons who have questioned the wisdom of a federal anti-lynching law will pause to wonder.

Dispatches say that none in the mob was recognized by the authorities. However, a thorough investigation has been ordered, and definite action is promised. The nation waits to see if the state of Mississippi is competent to enforce its laws which were flagrantly and openly flouted Tuesday. If the state is unable to obtain justice, then, of course, Representative Cavagan will indeed have another bit of concrete evidence to present in support of his bill.

Mississippi has the worst lynching record of any state in the union, with Georgia, Texas, Louisiana and Alabama following in the order named. All of these are Southern states, and yet we wonder why our neighbors in other sections sometimes speak of us as barbarians!

Gov. White has a serious and difficult task before him. He should leave no stone unturned in his effort to indict and convict the men guilty of this heinous crime—a crime worse than the one with which the Negroes were charged. There are bound to be some citizens who can identify some members of the mob. These citizens should be given the protection of the law, and they should have the courage to speak out. It is more than the name of Mississippi or the South that is at stake; the name of a whole country is blackened. We call ourselves civilized, yet men who have never been proved guilty of any crime are tortured and murdered by what the sheriff called an "orderly" mob. Let there be justice in Mississippi.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 16, 1937

Mississippi's Lynching

Press dispatches from Mississippi say that public indignation is strong against the mob that tortured and killed two Negroes last Tuesday. The Mississippi newspapers that come to this office are unyielding in their denunciation of the lynching, and demand that the mobsters be punished.

Gov. White seems determined to take definite action as soon as full reports are made to him. He has ordered his attorney general to make a thorough investigation.

If Mississippi brings to justice the leaders of this inhuman mob it will clear, to some extent, the black name that is today upon the state.

Columbus, Miss. Dispatch
April 14, 1937

Lynching Deplored By Women Of State

MCCOMB, Miss., April 14—(AP)—The lynching of two negroes yesterday near Duck Hill was declared "humiliating to Christian citizens of Mississippi" in a statement issued here today by the executive committee of the Mississippi Council of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching.

The statement said "We believe such acts of lawlessness are detrimental to government of our country, contrary to God's laws and handicap our mission work in other lands."

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
April 14, 1937

Another Foul Lynching

LYNCHING of two Negroes by a Mississippi mob Tuesday was but another outbreak of lawlessness and disregard for the majesty of the law. Irrespective of the crime for which the victims were held, to-wit the murder of a white man, the action of the mob but added to the outlawry and brings shame and disgrace upon a good State and community.

The sheriff and his deputies who were in charge of the prisoners when they were taken by the mob, say they recognized none of the lynchers. That's an old story. It was broad daylight and no doubt every man in the mob was a resident of the nearby scene of the murder. If that be so it is perhaps true that the only reason the officers failed to identify members of the mob, was because they shut their eyes and made no attempt to do so.

Details of the mob's violence indicate that the method pursued in doing death to the Negroes was particularly bestial and barbarous. Blow torches were used to slowly "simmer" the victims to death.

Such outrages most certainly inspire federal legislation.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
April 19, 1937

Off The Bench

By Judge Walter B. Jones

A DEPLORABLE AFFAIR

Last Tuesday afternoon at Jackson, the Governor of Mississippi was delivering an address to the Farm Chemurgic Conference. And among other things he said: "We are justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in fifteen months."

The sentence was hardly completed before the Governor's secretary nudged him on the arm and handed him a telegram from Duck Hill, Miss., stating that two negroes had just been lynched there. One of them was tied to a stake and tortured slowly to death by the flames from a blow torch. The other was riddled with bullets by a mob of one hundred and his body burned. The charge against the negroes was the murder of a white store-keeper last December. A jury was being impanelled to try them for the murder when they were taken from the custody of the sheriff of the county and two deputies, placed in a school bus and taken back to the scene of the alleged crime.

WALTER B. JONES

A lynching is a deplorable affair at any time. But it is more deplorable when a prisoner is taken from the officers of the law and murdered without hearing or trial by savage men who have no respect for the law and the jurors of the land. But especially deplorable is the Mississippi lynching coming, as at did, at a time when the House of Representatives at Washington was debating the Federal anti-lynching bill. The Mississippi lynchers by their savagery and flouting of the law gave those favoring the Federal punishment of lynchers, and the fining of counties where the lynching takes place, an argument that they made the most of, and that materially helped to speed the passage of the Federal law.

The press dispatches about the lynching leave one under the impression that little or no protection was given the accused men and that they were practically turned over to the mob by the sheriff without a struggle of any kind. No fight was made for the majesty of the law. No struggle was made to uphold our boasted right of trial by jury. The brave sheriff just quietly folded up his arms, and allowed a few members of the mob to hold him in light restraint while the rest of the mob drove off to murder the prisoners the law put in his hands and swore him to their protection.

A Denial of Justice

It is to be hoped that Mississippi will strike quickly and hard at the Duck Hill mob—a mob that flouted all of its laws, a mob that denied to the constituted authorities of the State right to conduct a trial in accordance with the Constitution of Mississippi, and denied to the helpless prisoners in the custody of the State trial by jury.

But One Kind of Court

In a charge to the Grand Jury of Montgomery County, Alabama, made by the writer of this article on July 11, 1927, when hooded gangs were riding the State at night and beating up any citizen the gang didn't like, taking the law into their own hands, and setting themselves up above the courts and the people, the writer said there could be but one kind of a court in this country, this land guided by the principles of Anglo-Saxon justice. And what sort of a court is that?

"It is a court where the accused has his day; It is a court where the accused has a trial by a jury of his peers; it is a court whose judges and jurors are under oath and sit by the authority of the people; it is a court where the accused knows and is confronted with the witnesses against him; It is a court that summons witnesses for the accused and hears both sides; it is a court that may imprison liars and perjurers; it is a court that meets in a public place; it is a court that meets openly at a known hour of a known day; it is a court that protects the rights of the lowly and weak with all the power at its command; it is a court that looks not to a man's race, his creed, or his political beliefs in measuring his rights; it is a court into whose counsels envy, hatred and prejudice do not come; it is a court which sits in the full glare of the mid-day sun; it is a court that administers justice without sale or denial; it is a court where under the law of the land every man is given what is his."

Give Governor Power to Remove Guards

In the Alabama Constitutional Convention of 1901, of which former Gov. Thomas G. Jones, of Montgomery, was a delegate from the second Alabama congressional district, this Alabamian tried to get a provision inserted into the Constitution to give the Governor of Alabama the right to remove a cowardly sheriff from office until impeachment proceedings had been initiated and terminated against the sheriff.

Governor Jones during his four years as governor, and during his 20 years as commander of the Alabama State Troops, had learned that if a sheriff really wanted to prevent a lynching he could do so. Governor Jones was firmly convinced from his experiences as Governor and as colonel of State troops that, most lynchings resulted from the cowardice and neglect of the sheriff in charge of the prisoner.

The section that he wished put in the constitution was in substance that "whenever any prisoner is taken from the jail or from the custody of the sheriff or his deputies, and put to death, or suffers grievous bodily harm, owing to the neglect, connivance or cowardice or other grave fault of the sheriff" such should be impeached and "the governor, when satisfied, after hearing the sheriff, that he should be impeached, may suspend him from office for such time as he may think proper, until the impeachment proceedings are finally disposed of." (See Journal of the Constitutional Convention of Alabama, 1901, at page 398 e. s.)

Governor Jones's Speech

In support of his proposition that the Governor should have the authority to remove a cowardly sheriff from office, Gov. Jones said (and the speech was made one hot Saturday afternoon—June 22—on the 27th day of the Convention):

"People in Alabama who have not taken the trouble to keep pace with events, will be startled to be told that within the last 10 years over 100 citizens of Alabama have been taken by mobs from sheriffs and jails and murdered. Yet, such is the case. Such is our bloody record. And yet two-thirds of those people were not guilty of a crime which I will not mention, because of fair listeners in the gallery. . . .

"Why is it of all men on earth, who are intrusted with the keeping of others, that a standard of honor must be made for officers different from all others, and that he should take no risks? Mr. President, the minister of the Gospel who would fail to see the veriest stranger, much less one of his own congregation, who is stricken with a deadly disease, because of personal fear, would be outlawed and scourged for all time.

"We see locomotive engineers every day standing by the throttle and risking their lives to save their passengers. We have seen captains of ships standing on the bridge, that the women might be saved, and going down to death in the waters.

False Standard for Sheriffs

"What policeman would be allowed to wear his uniform five minutes if he refused to make an arrest at the risk of loss of life? What man would have respect for the Alabama State Troops, no matter what the odds, if they allowed a mob to take a prisoner from them?

"Such a standard as is claimed for sheriffs has no recognition in any laws of honor. It is a false standard of duty, and if I may be pardoned for saying it, a cowardly standard of duty. . . . Let us not deceive ourselves. Two-thirds of the executions of prisoners by mobs are due to one of two things—either the cowardice of the sheriff, and I don't think there have been many cases of cowardice—or to a willingness for the mob to succeed, from the false conviction that a sheriff in fighting the mob is fighting not for the law, but for some worthless prisoner. In county after county everybody but the grand juries know who did the deeds. Case after case of this sort happens and continues to happen, and nobody is ever brought to the bar of justice. There is no prosecution. No strong voice ever condemns it. We owe it to ourselves, we owe it to our children, we owe it to our God, to put a stop to this base indifference to murder and making excuses for men who will not risk anything for the preservation of human life and the honor of the State.

Undermining Civilization

"The mob executions are brutalizing our children, blunting our religion and undermining our civilization. Can any one in the sound of my voice rise up and say that this is not so? We are undermining all noble ideals of duty and manhood. When we surrender to any local public opinion, which dominates in some places, that a sheriff is not bound to take any risk even to loss of life or limb in defense of a prisoner, we abdicate all our past and bow down and worship false and base standards of duty. Why should not the sheriff die at his post as well as the locomotive engineer, or the priest, or the doctor, or the soldier? We are setting a baleful example to our young sons who are coming up among us, if we teach that when a prisoner is given to an officer, that officer is free to desert his post of duty, because there may be danger in it. It is not like Alabama or the South to tolerate such a doctrine."

Governor Jones did not succeed in giving the right to the governor to remove a cowardly or neglectful or conniving sheriff from office. Perhaps he was too far in advance of his times; but he did succeed in getting put into the Constitution of Alabama the present Section 138 authorizing the impeachment of a Sheriff by the Supreme Court of Alabama. Section 138 has teeth in it, and has been used several times to remove from office a sheriff who allowed a mob to take a prisoner from him. It is one of the most statesmanlike provisions in the Constitution, and some day it should be amended so as to incorporate into the Constitution the right of the Governor to suspend from office a cowardly, conniving or neglectful sheriff.

Madison, Fla., Recorder
July 23, 1937

The double lynching at our own Capital City Tuesday is regrettable, not only for the deed itself and for the direct slap in the face of the orderly processes of law, but for the unfavorable light in which it places us over the country. Each recurring lynching, and our own County has not been free of them in recent years, serves to make our whole section appear barbarous to those who do not understand the at times terrific problem with which we are confronted.

Lynchings-1937
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Discussion-

White Press, Southern.

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Lenoir N C News-Topic
March 5, 1937

Decline Is Traced In Lynching In Country

Tuskegee, Ala.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, credits a 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades from the Institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period and 151 in the 1927-28 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings totaled 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear. Lynchings, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Second, the creaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as more telegraph officers, more telephones in small towns, and rural areas, and the advent of radio and paved roads.

Third, "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynching."

The Institute's department of records and research lists 321 lynchings in 1892, of which 162 were negroes. Succeeding years show lower totals, with 1932, with eight and 1936 with nine, as the Iowa.

Of the 4,673 lynchings recorded, homicides were blamed in 1921 cases; felonies assault in 928; rape in 908; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227, insult to white persons, in 81, and miscellaneous causes or cause unknown in 1,056.

Mississippi was ranked for 563 lynchings since records were started in 1882, Georgia ranked second with 515, and Texas third with 488, of which 143 were whites. Louisiana had 389; Alabama, 343; Arkansas 286; Florida 272; Tennessee 247; Kentucky 290; South Carolina 158; Oklahoma 123; and Missouri 121.

Other states, listed alphatbetically, follow.

Arizona 29; California 43; Colorado 68; Iowa 19; Kansas 54; Maryland 29; Michigan 8; Minnesota 9; Montana 29, Nebraska 57, Nevada 6, New Jersey 1, New Mexico 36, New York 2, North Carolina 98, North Dakota 16, Ohio, Oregon 21, Pennsylvania 8, South Dakota 27, Utah 8, Virginia 99, Washington 26, West Virginia 49, Wisconsin 6, Wyoming 35.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were listed as having had no lynchings since 1882.

Statesville N C Daily
March 3, 1937

Trace Decline In Mob Deaths

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Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont had no lynchings since 1882.

Lincolnton N C News
March 4, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

For a number of years Tuskegee Institute has been tabulating the returns of lynching and it is pleasing to observe that President F. D. Patterson reports that there has been a decline in mob action every decade since 1887.

Dr. Patterson gives three reasons for the decline and they are, we believe, sound observations. The first is the disappearance of frontier characteristics in the South; the breaking down of isolation in the South through the development of rural free delivery, increased communication facilities; paved roads and radio; the third, "increased agitation within the South against lynching."

While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynching was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Bradenton, Fla Herald
March 7, 1937

Without Apologies

The lynching evil for which the south has been mercilessly criticized, fairly or unfairly, declined substantially last year, only nine of these outrages being perpetrated as against an even score for the preceding 12-months period. It is regrettable that similar violence, gang killings and criminal assaults throughout the remainder of the country, could not have had a similar reduction.

However, the north's violence as represented in street slayings that endanger the lives of uninvolved citizens, is too commonplace to cause much comment. That sort of thing has come to be regarded as a part of life as it is lived in the big population centers of the country although it reflects as much or more shame on those communities than lynching reflects on the south since it is engaged in for the settling of scores in illegal business that is carried on for heavy financial gain.

The Herald regrets the south's lynchings as much as the next one but we do not feel that we are called on as a section to apologize for a condition that does not begin to approach in gravity that which obtains in many other sections. At least there is an imagined reason for every illegal necktie party the section has ever held while there is frequently not a semblance of excuse for similar outrages that occur elsewhere and which are permitted to pass largely unnoticed.

West Point, Ga. News
March 4, 1937

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BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
FEB. 21, 1937 F26

DECREASE LAID TO HUMANITARIANISM

Alabama Fifth In Number Of Illegal Hangings For Period, Report Shows

BY LEROY A. SIMMS

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"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

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Mississippi was ranked for 563 lynchings since records were started in 1882. Georgia ranked second with 515, and Texas third with 488, of which 143 were whites. Following came Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; Arkansas, 286; Florida, 272; Tennessee, 247; Kentucky, 209; South Carolina, 156; Oklahoma, 123, and Missouri, 121.

Other states, listed alphabetically, follow:

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ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. TIMES
FEB 21 1937

RECORDS SHOW SLOW DECLINE IN LYNCHINGS

Statisticians Give Several Reasons for Drop in Mob Action

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Feb. 20.—(AP)—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, today credited a 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 151 in the 1927-1936 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings totaled 1,030 for the decade, beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as the tendency for frontier characteristics in the south to disappear. Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the west and in the south.

Isolation Broken Down

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the south by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of radio and paved roads.

Third, "increasing agitation within the south against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched. From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched."

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

"This growth, I believe, has paralleled the development of educational and social agencies, all of which bid fair to rid this nation of the barbaric practice of lynching."

Mississippi Ranks First

The institute's department of records and research lists 231 lynchings in 1892, of which 162 were negroes. Succeeding years show lower totals, with 1932, with eight, and 1936 with nine, as the lows.

Of the 4,673 lynchings recorded, homicides were blamed in 1,921 cases; felonious assault in 198; rape in 908; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227; insult to white persons in 81, and miscellaneous causes or cause unknown in 1,056.

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Augusta, Ga., Bulletin
March 27, 1937

The Lynching Spirit

EVIDENCES of attempts to betray the Negro by enrolling him in the ranks of the Communists have cropped out from time to time, but none has been so patent as a recent story from Spain, sent out by the Associated Negro Press, and written by Roy Arlan Woodson, who paints a gloomy picture of conditions in Spain under the monarchy and the succeeding democratic republic, and who depicts the current Red regime in roseate hues.

The particular venom of the Woodson article is indicated by its defense of the killing of thousands of priests and many nuns and the burning and desecrating of churches, and by the bold assertion of its author that the churches in Spain ought to have been burned many years ago.

This advocacy of the lynching spirit by a Negro against the institution which has done more to oppose the exercising of it against Negroes than any other institution in the world would be most disheartening if we did not realize that this alleged leader among the Negroes and those who circulated his attack are actuated by a spirit which is utterly foreign to the representative members of the race.

Vincent dePaul Fitzpatrick, president of the Catholic Press Association of the United States, in a letter of protest to the Associated Negro Press, recalls the services of Mother Drexel, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the Sisters of Charity, the Sisters of Mercy and numerous other orders, and members of many religious orders of men to the colored people of the United States, without compensation or hope of any earthly return or reward, and often sacrificing even the necessities of life for the welfare of the Negro race.

"Do you think the members of the Negro race in the United States want to have their Negro papers endorsing the destruction of churches?" Mr. Fitzpatrick asks the director of the Associated Negro Press. "Is it not your wish, your province, your duty to encourage your readers to be law-abiding citizens?"

We feel that there is no need to be unduly excited by his evidence of sympathy with Communism on the part of some Negro leaders. It only demonstrates that they are no smarter than the white leaders who, either through bad judgment or ulterior motives, have become tools for the Communists. Unfortunately there are short-sighted people who have aided the Communists among the Negroes by their un-Christian attitude. While opposing Communistic efforts among the colored people as well as among the white, the Catholic Church will continue to strive to eliminate those conditions in which the seeds of Communism thrive.

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Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5564

DeLand, Fla., Sun News
October 5, 1937

MOB RULE NEVER JUSTIFIED

Mob rule under any circumstances is not to be condoned, but it is particularly despicable in a situation similar to that surrounding the hanging and shooting of a Negro near Fort Walton yesterday. He was accused of nothing more serious than a minor robbery, and striking of a white boy at the scene of the theft.

Would the mob have taken such drastic action if a white man had perpetrated the crime? Hardly. And yet we have white criminals who are just as vicious, who perpetrate far more atrocious crimes.

This is the second lynching to occur in Florida in recent months. Something should be done by officials to forestall such happenings in the future, and the greatest deterrent probably would be the apprehension and punishment in a court of law of the guilty parties.

However, in all probability the usual cry of "we are investigating, but officers did not know any members of the mob will go forth, and that will be the last heard of the case.

In some instances it is difficult to recognize members of a masked band, but such is not always the case and such violators of the law of the land should be captured and punished once in a while.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
October 9, 1937

Florida Lynching

Five men, waxing wroth over the attack of a Negro on a 12-year-old white boy, take a Negro suspect away from a Florida sheriff and a deputy. They cart their victim off to a quiet place and riddle his body with bullets.

The sheriff, of course, recognized none of the men. Neither did the deputy. The mobsters, we are told, were disguised, hooded maybe in kluxer style.

What's more, the officers did not resist the five men. The sheriff had the resources of a whole county, not to say the state, at his beck and call. The five men had only themselves and their guns. But the county bows, the state yields, and the law is raped and trodden under foot. Is comment necessary?

Sarasota, Fla., Herald
October 7, 1937

ANOTHER LYNCHING

The Tampa Tribune puts the blame for the Milton lynching on the law's delays, pointing out that the crime was committed months ago and the culprit only recently brought to justice. There is a medicum of truth in the Tribune's allegation. Doubtless if the negro had been brought to trial promptly and as promptly sentenced, the impulse to lynch him might not have risen in the perverted minds of his slayers. But this does not justify the act.

The law may have been tardy but there is no evidence that it missed the mark, and the criminal had not constituted a public menace while awaiting trial. On the contrary, he was under as great restraint in jail awaiting trial, and later, on the fatal night, in charge of the sheriff en route to begin his sentence, as if he were in the penitentiary serving time which the court belatedly imposed. From the day of his arrest society was as safe from him as it would have been if sentence had been imposed on the day of his arrest.

We cannot place much responsibility for the lynching on slow court processes. Final responsibility and final blame rests upon the cowards who hid behind masks and took him from the law's agent, the sheriff, at gun-point, and shot him down in cold blood.

For the second time in recent months the name of Florida is smirched with lawless execution. It is to be hoped that there will not be a second failure to run the lynchers down and administer the punishment provided for them in the criminal code of the state.

Failure to bring the perpetrators to justice will be an equal smirch with the crime itself.

Columbia, S. C. Record
October 7, 1937

Florida's Contribution.

Florida added another lynching to its list near midnight Sunday when "five hooded men" halted Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa county and seized a negro prisoner, charged with attacking a white boy and with robbing a filling station.

The negro had been held at Panama City for safekeeping but Monday was to have gone on trial at Milton. So the sheriff drove to Panama City with one of his deputies to get his prisoner. Near midnight, the sheriff told the coroner's jury who arrived at the usual death-at-the-hands-of-parties unknown verdict, a car overtook him and forced him to stop.

"We want that nigger," the men told him and the sheriff obliged. The negro's body was found a short time later riddled with bullets.

Law enforcement surrenders easily in Florida where, it seems, lynchers no longer trouble themselves even to gather a fair sized mod. Five men in black hoods will do the job.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
October 8, 1937

DEPLORES INCREASING LYNCHINGS IN SOUTH

Atlanta, Oct. 7.— (AP) —The Commission of Interracial Co-operation voted today to "exert all possible influence to put a stop to the wave of violations of civil liberties now current in the South . . ."

The commission, at its annual session here, elected Dr. Howard W. Odum of the University of North Carolina as president.

Approximately 100 members from all parts of the South attended.

The resolution dealing with civil liberties read: "Resolved: that the Commission on Interacial Cooperation and the individual members thereof exert all possible influence to put a stop to the wave of violations of civil liberties now current in the South; in particular the beating of white labor organizers and the illegal treatment of Negro farm workers."

Dr. Odum, the new president, is a native of Georgia and former dean of Emory University. He is the editor of Social Forces, and was president of the American Sociological Society in 1930.

R. B. Eleazer of Atlanta, secretary, said the announced purpose of the commission was to improve "conditions of neglect and injustice affecting Negroes and of the mistaken attitudes out of which such conditions grow."

The prisoner who was murdered had not been proved to be guilty of any crime. He may have been innocent. He was charged with robbing a filling station and assaulting a 12-year-old white boy. The law guarantees certain rights to every man, no matter how lowly or how despicable he may be.

Surely, the Florida authorities owe it to their state, to law, order and decency, to run down and bring before the judgment bar the midnight murderers who were abroad between suns in Santa Rosa Monday.

Incidentally, it is all too obvious that Santa Rosa county is sorely in need of officers who are worthy of the name and the trust reposed in them.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
October 7, 1937

Another Florida Lynching.

Florida's escutcheon was again besmirched and dragged in the muck at midnight Monday when five hooded hoodlums, taking it upon themselves to act as judge, prosecutor, jury and executioner, took a negro prisoner from a sheriff and a deputy in Santa Rosa county and riddled him with buckshot.

Sheriff and deputy made no effort to resist the thugs who, according to the former, shouted "We want that nigger!" Both escorting officers declare they did not recognize any of the mobsters. Sheriff admitted knowing there were "high feelings" against the negro. He was being transferred to a "place of safety" when the masked murderers seized him.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
October 6, 1937

JUNGLE RULE AGAIN

FLORIDA has one more lynching outrage chalked up to its discredit as the result of this week's disgraceful incident in Okaloosa county where a negro was taken from a peace officer and shot to death by an armed gang.

This is the second occurrence of its kind within a comparatively short period. The sinister shadow of mob rule cast over the state by these lawless events is not doing Florida's reputation any good in the north. Instead of being known as the Sunshine state, it is establishing itself as a region where the black clouds of intolerance and disrespect for the law prevail. All because a pitiful handful of citizenry prefers mob rule.

Governor Cone has ordered a thorough investigation of the crime, but the rest of the state will be none too optimistic over the chances of the guilty persons being brought to trial. The story is the same, each time. Officers who surrender the luckless prisoners invariably are unable to identify the mobsmen, the juries which make perfunctory inquiries uncover nothing, and ultimately the cases are written into the records as unsolved.

Callous public indifference in the communities where these crimes occur, makes possible such conditions. Yet each lynching that is not solved and in which the mob members go unpunished, is simply another lasting blot on Florida's reputation.

Roanoke, Va., World News
October 8, 1937

They Have Not Handled Them

When the Congress last summer laid over the Federal anti-lynching bill under an agreement that it would be taken up at the regular session of Congress in January, there was a tacit understanding that those States of the Deep South, where most lynchings occur, would have an opportunity to demonstrate their claims that the lynching evil could be handled through State action.

Since then there have been several lynchings, but so far as we have seen, no sincere or genuine effort to bring members of lynching mobs into court on the charge of murder.

The latest of these outbreaks has just occurred in Florida. A Negro accused of crime at Milton, Florida, had been transferred to another county for safe keeping, and was brought back to Milton for trial. Although the sheriff had been put on notice of inflamed public opinion, and had taken the precaution of removing the prisoner to another jail, no precautions were taken for guarding him on his way back for trial. A sheriff and one deputy were considered a sufficient escort.

And as they drove through the country with the prisoner in their car, the mob demanded their prisoner and got him without any protest or effort on the part of the officers of the law. As usual the sheriff—probably with an eye to reelection—now says that he did not recognize any members of the mob.

There is the usual promise of a grand jury investigation and that the Governor of Florida will do something. But no one expects any steps to be taken by either, other than the usual routine motions. The State of Florida has admitted that it is impotent to protect its prisoners when they are being transported along the State highways on their way to trial. And so the State of Florida, like the other States of the Deep South where such affairs have occurred, have lost their argument. They cannot oppose a Federal anti-lynching bill on the claim that they are capable of handling such affairs for themselves. **They have not handled them.**

Roanoke, Va., World News
October 20, 1937

Tennessee's Failure

About two months ago the sheriff of Tipton County, Tennessee, was transporting a prisoner along a public highway, on his way to the court house for trial, when several men surrounded the sheriff's car, took the prisoner and hanged him from a highway bridge. There was the usual promise of an investigation.

That investigation has now been held. The grand jury of Tipton county reports "with sincere regret" its inability to identify members of the lynching mob. It makes no recommendation as to the sheriff who meekly surrendered his prisoner.

Since that sheriff is an elective officer, it taxes credulity that he was wholly unable to identify any members of the lynching party. No evidence was presented to the grand jury as to who they were, but so far as the record shows, no effort has been made by the sheriff of the county, or by the Governor of the State to get that evidence.

When the Congress last August passed over the Federal anti-lynching bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, for consideration by the Senate in January, it was with the understanding that the States themselves were on trial. The States have asserted that they were able to handle this matter for themselves, and needed no Federal aid. Now it is apparent that the State of Tennessee has not handled it.

It is within understanding that some rude fellows of the baser sort should, perhaps under great provocation, commit a breach of the peace, attack an officer of the law, take his unarmed prisoner and murder him. That has happened before and, unfortunately, may happen again. But what is beyond understanding is that the so-called better element both of Tipton County and of the State of Tennessee, has not insisted on some real investigation, some real prosecution of those who committed this outrage. So far as we are told, the sheriff of Tipton County is still in office, notwithstanding his meek surrender of the prisoner entrusted to his keeping.

The pending Senate bill, passage of which is anticipated in January, does not provide for prosecution of lynching mobs in Federal courts. That is held to be still a matter for the State courts to handle, however poorly they have handled it in the past. But the pending bill does provide for prosecution in the Federal court of a sheriff or other peace officer who gives up a prisoner to a mob, and provides for a penalty on the county up to $5,000, payable to the victim's next of kin.

It may be questioned whether a Federal statute will end lynching. It may tend rather to inflame those of mob tendencies. But it may have the desirable effect of transferring from official position to Federal prison some vote-seeking sheriffs who fail to do their duty. And a few penalties imposed on the so-called decent tax-paying element, which had no part in a lynching mob, may cause that element to be more choice in its selection of its officials, and more aroused to see that members of lynching mobs are prosecuted for their murder of unarmed and defenseless persons who, in most instances, have not actually been convicted of any crime.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 24, 1937

Tennessee and Lynchings.

From the Bristol (Tenn.-Va.) Herald Courier.

This is to remind Gov. Browning and members of the Tennessee legislature that there was a lynching in Tipton county some two months ago, and that nothing will be done about it; also that there have been several such outrages in the state in the last few years, and nothing has been done about them.

The governor and most of the legislators may recall the Tipton county affair. A Negro accused of killing an officer had been sent to Memphis for safekeeping. When the time for the trial arrived the sheriff went to Memphis for the prisoner and was returning home with him when six men stopped the car in which they were riding, took the Negro from the sheriff and lynched him, hanging him from a bridge and riddling his body with bullets. Notwithstanding that the prisoner had been taken to Memphis on account of the feeling against him, the sheriff did not even take a deputy along when he went after him.

No doubt there was a general opinion that this mob would go unpunished for its crime against the law and against society, although the responsible authorities announced that the lynching would be investigated. The opinion was based on the fact that no other Tennessee mob had ever been brought to justice. It has now been confirmed by a report of the Tipton county grand jury, which expresses "sincere regret" that the jury has been unable to identify any of the members of the mob. The report contains no word of criticism of the sheriff for having taken no precautions whatever for the protection of his prisoner, whom he surrendered to the mob without a show of resistance. . . . Virginia has a law which defines lynching as murder, makes each member of a mob liable to a charge of murder, and empowers state authorities to act in the event of a lynching in any part of the state. There has not been a lynching or an attempted lynching in Virginia since this law became effective more than ten years ago. Gov. Browning should call upon the Tennessee legislature, now in special session, to pass a law of that kind.

Lynchings-1937
6
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5565

Baton Rouge, La., Advocate
February 26, 1937

Steady Decline in Lynch Cases Seen Since 1887

Humanitarian Attitude of U. S. Believed Largest Contributing Factor to Trend.

Tuskegee, Ala., Feb. 25 (AP)—A 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 was credited today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 151 in the 1927-1936 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings were recorded as 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear. Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of the radio and paved roads.

As the third and one of the most important, he gave "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

Continued Decline Seen.

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched. From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched.

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

"This growth, I believe, has paralleled the development of educational and social agencies, all of which bid fair to rid this nation of the barbaric practice of lynching."

A table, from the institute's department of records and research, lists 231 lynchings in 1892, of which 162 were negroes. Succeeding years show lower totals, with 1932, with eight, and 1936, with nine, as the lows.

Of the 4,673 lynchings recorded, homicides were blamed in 1,921 cases; felonious assault in 198; rape in 908; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227; insult to white persons in 81, and miscellaneous causes or cause unknown in 1,056.

Miscellaneous Causes.

Miscellaneous causes included being a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, discussing a lynching, misleading mob, enticing servant away, insisting on voting and gambling.

Mississippi was ranked for 563 lynchings since records were started in 1882. Georgia ranked second with 515, and Texas third with 488, of which 143 were whites. Following came Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; Arkansas, 286; Florida, 272; Tennessee, 247; Kentucky, 209; South Carolina, 158; Oklahoma, 123, and Missouri, 121.

Other states, listed alphabetically, follow:

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Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
February 21, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECLINE HEAVILY SINCE 1887

Report by Decades Shows 90 Per Cent Drop in Half Century

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NASHVILLE, TENN., TENNESSEAN
FEB. 21, 1937 F25

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SELMA, ALA., TIMES-JOURNAL
FEB. 21, 1937 F24

LARGE LYNCHINGS DECREASE HAILED

Growth In Humanitarian Attitude Of People Seen By Educator

BY LEROY A. SIMMS

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South Dakota, 27; Utah, 8; Virginia, 99; Washington, 26; West Virginia, 49; Wisconsin 6; Wyoming, 35.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were listed as having had no lynchings since 1882.

HICKMAN KY. COURIER
FEB. 26, 1937 M5

9 Lynchings in 1936.

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were nine persons lynched in 1936. This is 11 less than the number 15 for 1934; 19 less than the number 28 for 1933. Six of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; two were taken from jails, and four from officers of the law outside of jails.

There were 35 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 30 in Southern States. In 20 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 69 persons, 7 white and 62 Negro, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 9 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape 3; attempted rape 3; murder 1; activity in share cropper strike 1; charge not reported 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Arkansas 2; Florida 1; Georgia 5; Mississippi 1.

Mobster Rule

Over 40 anti-lynching bills have been introduced in the present Congress. Despite cynical criticism, we think the flood of anti-lynching bills is most significant. Mob rule has virtually supplanted constituted authority in many places. In Chicago and Cook County, Illinois, for many years the number of executions by mobsters has vastly exceeded the number of electrocutions in the Cook County jail. The portly sheriffs of Cook County have been reduced to the status of civilian officials serving garnishments and eviction notices, while the job of executing criminals has been left to the official executioners of the Capone, Tuohy, Moran and other mobs.

And it must be admitted that these extra-legal executions are done with admirable dispatch. Many evildoers are removed from society. Many puzzling problems of business competition and control of labor unions are settled by the unofficial tribunals and executions of racketeer super government, which enforces its racket codes despite the Supreme Court's decision in the sick chicken case. In New York the super government of rackets executes many more offenders than march through the little green door at Sing Sing. As in Chicago, many lines of business are regulated by this system of lynch law. Restaurants, laundries, the cleaning and dyeing trades, the marketing of fish, not to speak of the distribution of beer and liquor to mobster saloons and the control of race track news and betting is regulated by racket law in many barbaric urban belts. Vulgarians often speak of these unofficial protagonists of social order as "gangsters," but from the historical standpoint the "gangster" of today is not intrinsically different from the vigilantes or members of the anti-horse thief associations which reduced the wild and woolly frontier to order.

Doubtless some will raise the old cry of "states' rights" against efforts by Congress to give the federal government control of local police matters, but if the authority of the constitutional local governments is to be restored, the strong arm of Washington must intervene. There is no doubt that mob rule can be destroyed. After the Mafia dominated Sicily for centuries, Mussolini broke it up. He even cleaned up the Camorra of Naples, which was every bit as strong as the Racketeria of Chicago.

However, restoration of old-fashioned courthouse law in the backward barbarian parts of America will be no easy task. In the first place, the highly organized urban mob operating continuously, well financed and well armed, presents a more difficult problem than the old-fashioned frontier mob that used to hang a horse thief or the spontaneous mob that once in a great while rises in wrath over some atrocious crime perpetrated against a woman or other helpless victim. That kind of mob was sporadic and is becoming so rare as to be a fading anachronism. But lynch law of the modern scientific variety is not declining. If anything it is becoming more powerful and pervasive. If there is an occasional lull in the number of urban lynchings it does not indicate that the properly constituted legal authorities have regained power, but on the contrary that resistance to the edicts and decrees of mobster government has about disappeared.

Any attempt to restore law and order in such places as Chicago, New York, Minneapolis or St. Paul will encounter much public sentiment that not only is inclined to condone, but to defend the summary execution of offenders against mob and racket rule. In Chicago most of these killings elicited a public response to the effect that the victim got what was coming to him. That sentiment was well summed up in the observation of Hon. Ted Newberry, himself a shining light in the realm of Racketeria before his light was put out with a sub-machine gun. Said Ted, in commenting on the demise of a once famous fellow mobster: "He must have done something; they don't kill you for nothing."

FT. WORTH TEX. STAR-TELEGRAM
FEB. 22, 1937 M1

LYNCHING OVER NATION SHOWS DECREASE

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Feb. 22 (AP).—A 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 was credited Monday by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 151 in the 1927-1936 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline. Lynchings were recorded as 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1987; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Dr. Patterson listed three major contributing factors:

(1) Tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear; (2) breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephone, the radio and paved roads; (3) increasing agitation within the South against lynchings.

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched," he said. "From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched.

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings."

Of the 4,673 lynchings recorded, homicides were blamed in 1,921 cases; felonious assault in 198; rape in 988; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227; insult to white persons in 81, and miscellaneous cases or cause unknown in 1,056.

Mississippi was ranked first with 563 lynchings since 1882. Georgia ranked second with 515, and Texas third with 488, of which 143 were whites. Following came Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; Arkansas, 286; Florida, 272; Tennessee, 247; Kentucky, 209; South Carolina, 158; Oklahoma, 123, and Missouri, 121.

Other States, listed alphabetically, follow:

Arizona, 29; California, 43; Colorado, 68; Delaware, 1; Idaho, 20; Illinois, 31; Indiana, 47; Iowa, 19; Kansas, 54; Maryland, 29; Michigan, 8; Minnesota, 9; Montana, 84; Nebraska, 57; Nevada, 6; New Jersey, 1; New Mexico, 36; New York, 2; North Carolina, 98; North Dakota, 16; Ohio, 26; Oregon, 21; Pennsylvania, 8; South Dakota, 27; Utah, 8; Virginia, 99; Washington, 26; West Virginia, 49; Wisconsin, 6; Wyoming, 35.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were listed as having had no lynchings since 1882.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5566

Charlotte, N. C., News
December 29, 1936

Politicians and Lynchings

It may be only a coincidence but it is striking nevertheless how, when a Southern state is pestered with a poor white trash politician, lynching bees in that state are likely to show a marked spurt. Louisiana is a good example. When Huey Long had the better elements in Louisiana at his mercy the worse elements took to the rope and faggot unchecked. In 1935, the last year of Huey's life, Louisiana had four lynchings. This year she had not one.

This year it was the State of Georgia that was afflicted with politicianitis. Lord Gene Talmadge, it will be remembered, stood on his tiptoes, threw out his chest, and thought that suddenly he had become of national stature. In furtherance of this delusion, he did not hesitate to stir up more or less quiescent racial animosities. This year, under Talmadge, Georgia accounted for five lynchings out of a country-wide total of nine.

It must be admitted, however, that the 1936 lynching record for the South as a whole, bad as it is, is a considerable improvement over the years before. Nine lynchings contrast favorably with 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. It exceeded only by one the all-time record low of eight in 1932. Only four states, all of them in what is called the deep South, were involved; and two of those, Florida and Mississippi had but one apiece. Arkansas two and Georgia's five made up the rest.

Sumter, S. C.,
January 5, [illegible]

ORCHIDS FOR [illegible]

One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

Furthermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings; and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, 69 people—all but seven of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact that northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
January 8, 1937

Antilynching Law

[*Danville Register*]

The perennial campaign of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to place a Federal antilynching law on the statute books has been launched anew with "prospects for its passage more promising than at any previous time," according to Walter White, its secretary.

Sympathetic as we are with the aims of the association, we cannot support such a measure because we cannot see how it possibly can help prevent lynchings or what good it will do to slap fines on communities where lynchings are perpetrated. In times past it may have been true that whole communities participated in these fiendish crimes against civilization, but on only the rarest occasions, if ever, is that true today.

On the contrary, the good people of a community where a mob of men take the law into their own hands and murder a Negro suspected of crime without giving him an opportunity to defend himself or prove his innocence resent those outrages quite as much as does the association which would penalize the county or town where is was committed. Moreover, unless the members of the mob were identified, the courts would have no way of knowing whether residents of the community in which the crime was committed were responsible for it or not.

These difficulties in the way of administering an antilynching law as well as the manifest injustice of levying a fine on a large body of people for the act of a few force us to oppose enactment of such a measure. And we are inclined to believe that the persistence of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in advocating the law is doing their worthy cause much harm.

Granite Highland
JAN 6 1937
DEC 16 1936

ORCHIDS FOR SOUTH

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Jackson, Miss. Ledger
January 9, 1937

Lynchings Reduced In The South During The Past Year

During the past year courageous officials, in some cases at the risk of their own lives, prevented thirty-five lynchings, or three-fourths of those attempted.

It is no credit to the South, however, that lynch-law took nine lives, even though that cut the number for 1935 in half. It is encouraging, however, to know that the number of lynchings is gradually decreasing, that officers are becoming more determined, and that public-sentiment is rapidly developing against the spirit of the "few" who flaunt the law, and set themselves up as witnesses, judge and jury in certain cases. If there be any elements of good in the "quick" action that comes from a mob, the evil that flows from it is so much greater that it is difficult to understand how such action could enlist the sympathy of any honest and intelligent citizen.

Says the editor of the Vicksburg Post on this subject:

"One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

"Furthermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings, and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, 69 people—all but seven of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

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Portsmouth, Va. Star
January 5, 1937

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Anniston, Ala. Star
January 9, 1937

Orchids For South

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Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
January 20, 1937

Mob Violence

The Florence Times derives considerable amusement from the plight that Southern critics in the North must find themselves following an effort of New York women to lynch the confessed negro slayer of a white woman in her apartment home.

The shoe is on the other foot, the Times remarks, declaring:

"Headline: 'Women Try To Lynch Negro In Courtroom.'

"Where was this, in the Deep South, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi or one of the Carolinas, so long 'infamous' for their 'cruelty' to the black race?

"No, this occurred, much to the amazement and chagrin of the communists and racial inciters, in the metropolitan city of New York, which has long been the sneering base-station for all Red propaganda wending its way Southward.

"The attack was on the person of Major Green, black, who had just confessed to the killing of a 25-year-old white woman, and strangely enough, was instigated and carried out by women. Even in the South, according to traditions cherished above the Mason-Dixon line, women leave lynching parties up to their men-folks.

"Furthermore the paper in which we saw the account, a Southern metropolitan daily, 'played down' the story, placing it in the second section, under a 'dead news' head.

"Had this happened in Alabama, or any other of the Southern states, does the reader think it would have been 'played down'? He knows good and well it would have not, but would have been spread all over every yellow sheet in the country, and the International Labor Defense, Samuel Liebowitz, et al., would have leaped to the rescue of this 'down-trodden worker' with all the avidity of jackals to a cadaver, and the enlightened minds of the great populace northward would have eaten up the screaming black type with greatest of gusto.

[illegible] we are told in all solemnity that the South is a persecutor and exploiter of the black race, which latter has been upheld in all iniquity by this same I.L.D., and organizations of the kind, with especial reference to the infamous Scottsboro cases.

"What those New York women had in mind is not exactly discernible, unless it actually was application of the lynch-law. The principal thing they accomplished, however, was to place these Red organizations and the brilliant writers of the north in an extremely embarrassing position, at least until they can find another case south of the line, and attempt to spread a smoke-screen of sufficient volume to cover up this incident."

Reading the New Yok dispatches regarding the lynching incident, even a casual observer familiar with the circumstances cannot help but contrast the scene with the quietude which prevailed in Decatur through the several Scottsboro trials, in spite of desperate New York reporters, thirsty for excitement, chasing phantom mobs.

An observer, given the opportunity to see something of what was going on behind the scenes, also bound to wonder whether many of the wilds reports that eastern writers spent so much time "investigating" were actually believed hot "tips" by the reporters, or whether they were permitting themselves to become cogs in a gigantic propaganda machine.

An impartial judge probably would conclude the visiting reportorial contingent was composed of some who were writing "mob stories" for home consumption as propaganda and others who were dumb enough to believe the propagandists.

At any rate it would be interesting to know how some of the reporters who have covered Scottsboro hearings here would have covered the New York episode.

Milledgeville, Ga., Times
January 27, 1937

LAW OVER LYNCH LAW

There is no crime so bad but lynching makes it worse. One didn't need to mention the word around the jail in Florence, South Carolina, the other day to see that things looked as bad for an angry crowd as for a Negro in its clutches. News dispatches tell how close those aroused citizens came to being a party to a lynching.

But what seemed like mob murder in the making became an orderly step in the due process of law. First the sheriff appealed to the crowd to forgo violence and give the law—and the man—a fair chance. Then the father of the young woman alleged to have been molested pleaded with fellow citizens to let the law have its way. With that the crowd put up its vengeance and gave the prisoner to the sheriff.

It is satisfying to see how effectively that indignant southern crowd was able to curb its actions. Mob emotions usually run wild at such a time. The facts emphasize how strong is the average individual's instinctive respect for law to which the sheriff and the father appealed in this outbreak. And whatever this proves for the individual it proves for people as a whole. The supremacy of collective reason over mob rule manifested in this episode helps to dispel a sectional libel predicted on the mistaken opinion that southern communities prefer lynching to law.

Lynchings usually get all the publicity they deserve. We hope the happening in South Carolina gets all the public notice it rightly deserves.—Christian Science Monitor.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
January 26, 1937

As to Lynching

The suppression of a would-be lynching at Florence in this state recently, due to the sheriff's activity and appeal to a mob to let the law have its course, supported by an earnest request along similar lines by a relative of the person said to have been molested, is commended editorially by the Christian Science Monitor of Boston, which among other things says:

"Mob emotions usually run wild at such a time. The facts emphasize how strong is the average individual's instinctive respect for law to which the sheriff and the father appealed in this outbreak. And whatever this proves for the individual it proves for people as a whole. The supremacy of collective reason over mob rule manifested in this episode helps to dispel a sectional libel predicated on the mistaken opinion that southern communities prefer lynching to law."

There are those in other sections who labor under just such misapprehension—"that southern communities prefer lynching to law." A hostile press has dinned such contention into their ears for generations

Atlanta, Ga.
Christian Index
Feb 18 - 1937

WHEN we read the first paragraph of President Patterson's annual statement that the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute showed that there were nine persons lynched in 1936, eleven less than the number of twenty for 1935; six less than the number of fifteen for 1934; and nineteen less than the number of twenty-eight for 1933, we rejoiced in the progress the country had made toward eliminating the most repulsive of all sins against law and order. But our joy was of momentary duration, for we read in the last paragraph of his statement that of the nine persons lynched in 1936, Georgia led, having five of the nine lynchings to her credit.

La Fayette, La., Advertiser
February 24, 1937

Fewer Lynchings

The recent lynching in Alabama, first for 1937, calls attention to the 1936 record of nine lynchings following 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 38 in 1933.

Improvement is encouraging, but there is no assurance that it will continue. There is no certainty that there will not be 28 lynchings in the country this year. There is no way we can be sure that anyone will be punished for any of these lynchings that are going to happen before this year is ended.

During 1936 officers saved 35 persons from mobs which wanted to lynch them. In only five instances was it necessary to use armed force to rescue prisoners.

There is a growing impatience with lynching in this country. Opinion for federal anti-lynching legislation to fine communities where lynchings occur and to punish officers responsible for the safety of victims seems to grow stronger, even in some Southern centers. This adds one more item to the list of things the country is seeking a constitutional way of doing.

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5567

Sheffield, Ala., Daily
January 18, 1937

Now The Shoe's On The Other Foot

Headline: "Women Try To Lynch Negro In Courtroom."

Where was this, in the Deep South, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi or one of the Carolinas, so long "infamous" for their "cruelty" to the black race?

No, this occurred, much to the amazement and chagrin of the Communists and racial inciters, in the metropolitan city of New York, which has long been the sneering base-station for all the Red propaganda wending its way Southward.

The attack was on the person of Major Green, black, who had just confessed to the killing of a 25-year-old white woman, and strangely enough, was instigated and carried out by women. Even in the South, according to traditions cherished above the Mason-Dixon line, women leave lynching parties up to their men-folks.

Furthermore, the paper in which we saw the account, a Southern metropolitan daily, "played down" the story, placing it in the second section, under a "dead news" head.

Had this happened in Alabama, or any other of the Southern states, does the reader think it would have been "played down"? He knows good and well it would have not, but would have been spread all over every yellow sheet in the country, and the International Labor Defense, Samuel Liebowitz, et al., would have leaped to the rescue of this "down-trodden worker" with all the avidity of jackals to a cadaver, and the enlightened minds of the great populace northward would have eaten up the screaming black type with greatest of gusto.

Yet, my friends, we are told in all solemnity that the South is a persecutor and exploiter of the black race, which latter has been upheld in all iniquity by this same I.L.D., and organizations of the kind, with especial reference to the infamous Scottsboro cases.

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Moultrie, Ga., Weekly Observer
January 8, 1937

GEORGIA'S BAD SHOWING

Georgia came near spoiling the lynching record of the United States in 1936. An unusually small number of lynchings have been reported—just nine. While this is a good record for the nation as a whole it is depressing to read that Georgia furnished five of the nine lynchings.

An earnest effort has been made in this state to create a sentiment against mob law and the officers of the law have, as a rule, been faithful to their oaths of office and have tried to prevent lynchings where it has been possible. This year the mobs have stormed against this wall of sentiment and have done violence to law and order. We stand out nationally again, and in an unfavorable manner.

Only four states had any lynchings reported at all. Others present a clean slate. How fine it would have been for Georgia to be in that class. This would have meant that only four lynchings occurred during the year. There is encouragement for the future in the fact that officers of the law are becoming more and more determined to prevent lynchings. They are receiving the encouragement of the courts, the newspapers, the churches and the educators and many others. They are being given very substantial support by governors who have not failed to use the National Guard when it was necessary to protect a prisoner from a mob. Even with the increased vigilance of the officers of the law, six of the nine men lynched this year were in the custody of the law and were taken from the officers or from jails by mobs.

There is encouragement in the statement that 69 persons were saved from mob violence by the protective arm of the law. Thirty of these instances were in Southern states. Advancing civilization is leading us away from mob law. Georgia must move in that direction.

Villa Rica, Ga., Brease
January 14, 1937

When the roll of lynchings for 1936 is compiled, it is found that Georgia led all the rest, with a total of five, while not one occurred in the surrounding states of Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Why this breakdown is law and order in the state of Georgia? That is a question that should interest churches, the educational leaders and all the thoughtful citizens in all the walks of life.

A state that takes pronounced leadership in lynching is not the state which is going to appeal most strongly to those seeking new homes or new fields of investment, and Georgians should take steps to end the existing condition.

When outbreaks of mob violence increase it shows a significant lack of enforcement as well as a lack of support for the law, and that is always bad. Georgians are too rich in religious, moral and spiritual qualities to permit a condition of this nature to continue but it will continue unless these influences are put to work more aggressively.—Gadsden, Ala., Times.

Orange, Va., Review
January 14, 1937

PREVENTED LYNCHINGS

(Cumberland Times)

The lynching record is low again after four bad years. The total for 1936 is nine. It was 20 in 1935 and 16 in 1934.

There is a hopeful development in the situation. Increasingly lynchings are prevented. The prevention figures are not yet available for 1936, but in 1936 more than 80 persons were saved from mob violence. Some of these were protected by officers of the law who employed extra guards for the purpose. Some times a prisoner was quickly and secretly moved to a different location until the vengeful mania died out.

Mob wrath develops and spreads quickly, sometimes with slight provocation. The job of controlling calming or dispersing a mob is not easy, but has often been well done, showing that it is quite possible where authorities are courageous and intelligent.

Charlottesville, Va. Progress
January 16, 1937

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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
January 13, 1937

Statistics reveal that lynchings are becoming scarcer in America. Now if the swing fad will only die down in music.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
January 12, 1937

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Lakeland, Fla., Ledger
January 19, 1937

LEE FOE OF LYNCHING

Atlanta, Jan. 19—(AP)—Robert E. Lee, long honored as warrior, statesman and educator, was commended as a foe of lynch law today on the 130th anniversary of his birth. While states from Virginia to Texas paid official tribute to the memory of "Marse Robert," the interracial commission cited Riley's biography to prove Lee on two occasions personally thwarted mob violence.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
January 20, 1937

NORTHERN LYNCHERS

We humbly call the attention of Senator Wagner of New York, anti-lynching bill proponent, to the rioting that took place in New York state the other day when a negro confessed killing a white woman. "Lynch him!" cried New Yorkers. These people back Senator Wagner, we presume.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
January 20, 1937

DYING LYNCH LAW

Two recent items of news have brought glad tidings to thoughtful Americans who do not feel the citizens of the South have the God-given right to take unto themselves lengths of rope and dispatch other persons—mostly black men—whose ways do not meet with their approval.

One short news story mentioned the fact that the famous "Lynching Limb" in Tombstone, Arizona, has been hacked off the parent tree. Lynching is no longer in favor in Arizona, it was explained.

Taking up a more serious aspect of mob law, it is good to see that there is now an active Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. At the organization's first biennial session, held in Atlanta, the director, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, said:

"Economic greed is the cause of more lynchings than the protection of white women's honor. For years crimes have been committed in the South in the name of women, without cause. White women of the South now are realizing this is a travesty on justice and a slur on their honor." She added that 35,000 women in 13 southern states have signed pledges to fight lynching.

As any discerning observer knows, what Mrs. Ames said is true. The majority of lynchings in the South have been caused, not by negro attacks upon white women, but because of economic jealousy between the poor white classes and the negroes, their closest competitors for a livelihood. As a rule, the southern white man's dislike for the negro is more intense the nearer he approaches the average black man's own economic status. The "southern chivalry" idea has long been a smoke screen for the play of other forces.

Nobody in the South in taking a stand against lynching is endorsing attacks on women, either by negroes or white men. Neither is the question of social equality involved. The whole thing just boils down to the irrefutable fact that no one group of the population has the right to take the life of anyone without due process of law.

It is a satisfaction to know there is far less lynching now than there was a generation ago, and that last year, from this standpoint, was one of the best on record.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
January 20, 1937

Laurels For South

One of the excellent records hung up in the year 1936 is the fact that the lynching evil declined substantially. The year saw nine lynchings—and while it may be remarked that was just nine too many, it should be noticed that it was 11 fewer than 1935's total.

Furthermore, there were 35 cases in which courageous officers of the law prevented attempted lynchings; and 30 of these cases were recorded in the deep south. Altogether, 69 people—all of them colored—were saved from violence at the hands of mobs.

It is cause for congratulation, that record. And it emphasizes a fact which northern critics too often overlook—that the average southern official, supported by the sentiment of his own locality, is aware of his duty and brave enough to carry it out.

Thirty-nine mobs formed in the south last year, bent on violence; all but nine of them were broken up and foiled. The South can take pride in that record.

Charlotte, N. C., News
January 12, 1937

Narrow Escape

The first lynching of 1937 didn't take place in Olanta, South Carolina yesterday. All of the ingredients were present:—an alleged attempted assault upon a white woman by a Negro; the Negro, taken from two officers of the law; an angry crowd which could have turned into a lustful mob in a split second. That the lynching didn't take place seems to have been due to the persuasiveness of the two deputies and the father of the girl concerned. They argued with the crowd that the law should take its course and, strangely enough, they prevailed. The Negro was delivered back into the custody of the officers and jailed.

Which is in all respects complimentary to the officers, the father and the incipient mob. If the Negro has attempted to commit an outrage, he will be punished for it. But it is well to leave it at that and not to compound one outrage with another or to besmirch the good name of the community. Especially to be commended is the father, who kept his head when his neighbors were on the point of losing theirs.

SHERIFFS AND LYNCHINGS

Every man in the Deep South knows that grand jury action against members of a lynching mob is an empty gesture. It means nothing except an increasing contempt for lawful processes and an increasing deference to the mob spirit.

The way to strike at the lynching evil is to strike at the county sheriffs. They love their jobs as well as their voting neighbors. There is nothing except his family that a jobholder loves as much as his job.

There isn't a sheriff in Alabama that given fair notice is not capable of preventing a lynching. Everybody knows that. Only in very exceptional circumstances is a sheriff helpless. A determined peace officer who has any sense knows how to stop a mob. Everybody in this State knows that is true.

It is all very well for Governor Graves to demand a grand jury investigation of the recent lynching in Henry county. That means that grand jurors, some of whom may have been in the mob, will return a no-bill. They nearly always do. Grand jurors are the neighbors and friends of lynchers. They are never likely to take vigorous action against mob killers. Petit juries are even less likely to take final action against neighbors who are known to have participated in a lynching, since the victim of the lynching invariably is the object of loathing by all good citizens.

But Governor Graves is hitting a home-run when he calls upon Attorney-General Albert Carmichael to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff of Henry county. That's the way to go after the lynch-loving yeomanry of our fair State. They don't like that. They can't handle it. They know that a negligent sheriff will be tried, not by jurors that helped lynch a man or at least lives next door to a lyncher, but by the Supreme Court of Alabama.

In other words, they know that a negligent officer must give an account of his conduct to the highest judicial authority in the State. He will get a fair trial, which is one reason that lynchers do not relish impeachment proceedings.

In demanding an impeachment trial of the sheriff of Henry county Governor Graves is acting in the best traditions of Alabama Governors.

The Governors of this State have always hated lynchings. The Advertiser, which is nearly as old as the State, does not recall a Governor who was indifferent to lynchings. It does recall that many Governors have been instrumental in impeaching many sheriffs for weakly condoning lynchings. The Advertiser is glad to reaffirm what it has frequently said before that Governor Bibb Graves has been one of the most diligent and courageous foes of lynchers that ever sat in the executive chair of a State that has never had a Governor who was indifferent to mob violence.

Only a stupid oaf would say that a guilty rapist could not be convicted by a jury and punished by the State. The danger always is that the wrong man may be killed. Due process of law is one of the noblest principles in the Constitution.

All rapists should suffer—no rapist has a chance to escape justice, if the evidence against him is sufficient.

Therefore, The Advertiser is glad to say to Governor Bibb Graves and Attorney-General Albert Carmichael, who desire only a fair trial of Henry's sheriff: Step on it!

Lynchings-1937
Discussion

White Press, Southern.

5568

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
February 4, 1937

IS THIS THE REMEDY?

So hopeless is the Richmond Times-Dispatch "of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action," that it comes out strongly, in a featured editorial, in favor of the new Federal anti-lynching bill which it says has just been introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington.

The theory of The Times-Dispatch, apparently, is that a Federal law under which the government at Washington could clamp down on and punish local peace officers who failed to protect a prisoner from a mob and upon communities in which lynchings occurred, by levying a fine against the county, would tend to stop mob murder.

We have never been able to see the force of this contention. It might well be, we think, that the assumption by the Federal government of the responsibility of preventing lynchings and punishing lynchers and the local officers who could not show that they had exerted themselves to the utmost to protect their prisoners might have the very reverse effect to that intended.

The prevention of lynching is now a local responsibility and the only cure for this crime is, we believe, a continued quickening of the public sense of this responsibility, the continued development of a public and individual revulsion against lynching. There has been a steady change for the better on these lines. Less than forty years ago there were more than a hundred lynchings every year. Twenty years ago we still had sixty to eighty lynchings a year. The number was down to eight in 1932, to twenty-eight in 1933, to fifteen in 1934 and to twenty in 1935.

The steady decline in the number of lynchings has been accomplished as a result of the pressure of public sentiment, the building up of an attitude of detestation for mob murder, the increased feeling on the part of the people in those sections in which lynchings were most prevalent that a lynching was a stigma on the community, the more vigorous efforts that have been made to protect prisoners and prevent lynchings.

What the effect of the Federal activities that are proposed would be is, in our opinion, a fairly large question. Resentment of outside pressure applied by force has repeatedly, as could be instanced, lead whole communities to take strange attitudes. Our guess is that more often than otherwise the Federal government would make local martyrs and heroes of the sheriffs—or governors—it sought to punish under this proposed legislation. Feeling might easily be aroused as a result of which the real objective, that of stamping mob murder out, might be lost sight of.

We do not now discuss the constitutional question that is involved. The fact that an important Southern newspaper is willing to disregard this phase of the matter is interesting. The fact that The Times-Dispatch has come to think that the Federal government might do a better job in suppressing mob murder than the States is significant. At the last, however, it is human nature that is being dealt with, and one may be permitted to doubt whether an act of Congress can yet change human nature over night.

That lynching is a crime against the civilization of the South is not to be disputed. We are in full agreement with our Richmond contemporary on that score. But we cannot see eye to eye with it when it argues that the civilization of the South would be relieved of the stigma by the enactment of the Federal legislation it favors. The remedy to serve its purpose must come from within. No region, we venture to assert, has ever had or is likely ever to have a civilization better than its own people.

Baton Rouge, La., Times
February 4, 1937

NO-LYNCHING RECORD

Mississippi, our sister state, continues the fight against lynching by word of mouth and by letter. The Jackson, Miss., Clarion-Ledger reprints a congratulatory letter sent to sheriffs who had no lynchings in their territory during 1936.

The Clarion-Ledger says:

"Governor White sends a letter to all Mississippi sheriffs congratulating and commending them on their part in Mississippi's achievement of a record of no lynchings during 1936.

"'This is the first year since the turn of the century that Mississippi has been without a case of lynching at the hands of a mob,' he wrote the sheriffs. 'Realizing that this enviable record could not have been made without continuous vigilance and vigorous enforcement of our laws on the part of our law-enforcing officers, I am taking this occasion to commend you upon your part in keeping our state free from unseemly mob action.'

"This executive recognition of the sheriffs' aid in making this record, and of the necessity of courage and vigilance by sheriffs in the prevention of lynching, is appropriate and timely.

"Much credit for the perfect 1936 record for Mississippi must go to citizens who have worked to improve racial relations on a firm basis, to the women's organizations which have used their influence to make lynching unpopular, and to the newspapers which have also aided the fight to reduce mobbery in Mississippi. But much credit also must go to the sheriffs and deputies.

"Education helps this work. These activities mentioned above help it. But, in the final analysis when it comes to a show-down in any specific case, nothing is more effective as a deterrent to lynching than a courageous sheriff determined to protect his prisoner and to obey his oath at all costs.

"All good citizens of both races join in Governor White's wish and hope 'that 1937 will be another year free of lynch law in Mississippi.'"

Selma, Ala. Times
February 7, 1937

YET A CHANCE

A negro was lynched in Alabama yesterday. It says much for the State's recent advance in civilization that this is news. Had the mob murder occurred in Georgia, to the east, or in Mississippi, to the west, it would have been much less surprising. But of late Alabama has shown a definite dislike of lynching—a dislike so strong that the sport has become dangerous there.

Perhaps yesterday's occurrence shows that she is slipping. However, be it noted that the Sheriff concerned, although he lost his prisoner, says that he recognized some of the mob. Usually the officers give the impression that the lynching was done by visitors from another planet, so strange are they to the eyes of the Sheriff and his men. If the Sheriff sticks to his identification, some of the lynchers may yet feel the heavy hand of justice; and, if that happens, Alabama's reputation with the outside world will be at least partially restored.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

Alabama should give her best curtsy to the Sun for classing a lynching in our state as "news," owing to its rareness, but we feel that the compliment is undeserved. Nobody familiar with the facts knows any reason why lynching should be more frequent in any state of the Deep South of like racial population than in our own chosen commonwealth. These outbreaks of violence will occur just as readily in Alabama as in Mississippi, Georgia, and portions of South Carolina and Tennessee. Lynchings are due to racial prejudice and a sense of security on the part of the white men who perpetrate them. The most hopeful symptom of our mixed civilization is that the highest type of our citizens and newspapers frown upon these acts of violence and sincerely work to abate them and to engender more respect for the law. Here we have the only hope for the slow amelioration of this evil.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 8, 1937

Another Whoop For The Mob

Editor of The Eagle:

As a constant reader of The Dothan Eagle I read the letter of Mr. Ezell concerning the lynching of Henry County and the reply.

Maybe Mr. Ezell does approve of the mob's actions, but is he the only one? No, not by a long shot! There is not a woman or young girl anywhere that would not want to be protected from such brutal attacks. It is time for our men to protect womanhood!

Why impeach a good man for something he could not help when overpowered by a mob of furious men?

Hasten on the calamity! We are ready for Mr. Ezell to be our next sheriff.

MISS JEANNE HELM,
Junior Hi Student

Gainesville, Fla. News
January 21, 1937

Lynching Attitude Causes Problem

Bristol Delivers Talk In Atlanta on Cause And Prevention

Problems of race relations in the south should be settled by the people of the south, according to Dr. L. M. Bristol, head of the sociology Department at the University, who spoke in Atlanta last week before the bi-annual meeting of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

"I am convinced," he said, "that the South is capable of working out its own salvation with reference to race relations without coercion from any other section of the country." He was referring to a newspaper release containing resolutions adopted by the National Conference on Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth, one of which favored "a strong Federal anti-lynching law."

Praises Women's Work

Dr. Bristol commended the organization and work of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of lynching and said that he believed that this association together with the Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation were among the greatest influences for good in developing wholesome public opinion with reference not only to lynching, but to the whole field of race relations in the south.

He stated that to solve the problems of lynching among other race problems, it would be necessary to approach it from the scientific viewpoint.

"A study of this question from the scientific point of view," the speaker maintained, "will show, I believe, that lynching is but one expression of a whole system of attitudes; that this system is the product of a culture that has been in process of development for three hundred years or more; that as the lynching attitude is an integral part of a system it can not be changed effectively and permanently until the culture is changed of which it is a logical expression. This is the reason why mere legislation cannot prove effective; for any legislation to be effective must have the support of enlightened public opinion."

Scientific Study

Turning to the question of lynching in the South and its relation to the whole question of racial prejudice, he made a suggestive analysis from the theoretical point of view holding that tentative conclusions should be tested and corrected by scientific study although such study would prove difficult because so little could be learned about lynching mobs. He held that much could be learned, however, by a study of the attitudes of samples of people in the South concerning race relations including lynching.

"Lynching," said Dr. Bristol, seems to be the legitimate child of race and class prejudice and hated, and closely related to all defense-reactions that are impulsive and emothional rather than bulit up on a consideration of social welfare for all."

Conclusions

He maintained that so far as could be assumed concerning the question, the following conclusions are warranted: "(1) that so long as the poor whites of the South are struggling for existence in competition with the negro, with an urge to lord it over someone to compensate for a feeling of inferiority dating back from slavery days, just so long will there be racial antipathy which may be expected to express itself at times in lynching or other forms of violence and injustice; (2) that so long as white industrial workers in Northern cities are struggling for existence in competion with negros, just so long will there be racial antipathy which will be liable at any moment to break out in race riots; (3) that so long as descendants of the planter aristocracy of any other class glory in a culture that can be maintained only by the exploitation of fellow human beings by means of a caste system built on recognition of innate superiority and inferiority and by a controlling purpose to maintain an order of dominance and submission, just so long will there be attitudes and sentiments favorable to lynching under certain conditions and to other forms of lawlessness."

Suggestions

The speaker made several suggestions with reference to a program looking not only to the prevention of lynching, but to changes in the whole culture of the South which seemed to be fundamentally related. Foremost place was given to a study of the social sciences in public schools and institutions of higher learning, and closely related to this special preparation of teachers and particularly to supervising principals who are often in charge of negro as well as white schools.

Solutions

For a practical solution to the problems he said, "The attitude favorable to lynching—all too prevalent in the South—may be changed by intelligent cooperation, and mainly, I believe, through increasing emphasis on the social sciences, especially sociology, in our schools and institutions of higher learning. Much can be done, too, through a study of the application of both science and religion to problems of human relations through study clubs and reading circles, and perhaps best under such leadership as that provided by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Commission on Inter-racial Cooperation."

Greensboro, N. C., Record
February 4, 1937

What Big Eyes!

The lynching of a negro in Alabama isn't big news because it is nothing particularly out of the ordinary. But it is news that in reports of the lynching, which occurred at Headland Tuesday, an Alabama sheriff, Sheriff Louis Corbett, is quoted as saying he "recognized some members of the mob."

One is reminded of what Little Red Riding Hood said to the Big Bad Wolf who was trying to impersonate the good old grandmother: "What big eyes you have, grandmother!"

What big eyes Sheriff Corbett has, and how well he uses them. Gov. Bibb Graves declares: "Alabama, so long as I am governor, never will tolerate mob rule." Bravo! Governor Graves should have the Alabama prosecutor get in touch at once with Sheriff Corbett and get names of mobsters recognized by the latter.

How much better this sheriff can see than some of our North Carolina sheriffs have been able to see in similar circumstances!

It is recalled that in one of the most recent mob crimes in North Carolina, not far from the state capital, a sheriff and deputies had a good look at the mob in broad daylight but they could not see well enough to identify any of the mobsters. This occurred some years ago, but as yet none of the lynchers have been apprehended. The Alabama sheriff has the best pair of eyes of any sheriff in whose bailiwick a lynching has occurred in several years.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
February 7, 1937

Press Comment

Sheriffs And Lynchings

(The Montgomery Advertiser)

Every man in the Deep South knows that grand jury action against members of a lynching mob is an empty gesture. It means nothing except an increasing contempt for lawful processes and an increasing deference to the mob spirit.

The way to strike at the lynching evil is to strike at the county sheriffs. They love their jobs as well as their voting neighbors. There is nothing except his family that a jobholder loves as much as his job.

There isn't a sheriff in Alabama that, given fair notice, is not capable of preventing a lynching. Everybody knows that. Only in very exceptional circumstances is a sheriff helpless. A determined peace officer who has any sense knows how to stop a mob. Everybody in this state knows that is true.

It is very well for Governor Graves to demand a grand jury investigation of the recent lynching in Henry county. That means that grand jurors, some of whom may have been in the mob, will return a no-bill. They nearly always do. Grand jurors are the neighbors and friends of lynchers. They are never likely to take vigorous action against mob killers. Petit juries are even less likely to take final action against neighbors who are known to have participated in a lynching, since the victim of the lynching invariably is the object of loathing by all good citizens.

But Governor Graves is hitting a home-run when he calls upon Attorney-General Albert Carmichael to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff of Henry county. That's the way to go after the lynch-loving yeomanry of our fair state. They don't like that. They can't handle it. They know that a negligent sheriff will be tried, not by jurors that helped lynch a man, or at least live next door to a lyncher, but by the Supreme court of Alabama.

In other words, they know that a negligent officer must give an account of his conduct to the highest judicial authority in the State. He will get a fair trial, which is one reason that lynchers do not relish impeachment proceedings.

In demanding an impeachment trial of the sheriff of Henry county, Governor Graves is acting in the best traditions of Alabama governors.

The governors of this state have always hated lynchings. The Advertiser is glad to reaffirm what it has frequently said before, that Governor Bibb Graves has been one of the most diligent and courageous foes of lynchers that ever sat in the executive chair of a state that has never had a governor who was indifferent to mob violence.

Lynchings-1937
Discussion.

White Press, Southern.

5569

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 9, 1937

Disgraced Alabama

Last week the *New York Herald Tribune* said editorially:

"On Tuesday some 50 men broke into a county jail in a little Southeastern Alabama town, carried away a cowering Negro, hanged him to a tree and riddled him with bullets. There were no arrests, and the pages of 1937's history were blotted with their first lynching outrage. . . ."

Almost immediately after the announcement of the atrocity, Gov. Graves ordered Attorney General Carmichael to make "a special and thorough investigation."

The governor further directed that "the attorney general . . . file impeachment proceedings against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted. Alabama, so long as I am governor, never will tolerate mob rule."

On Saturday the specially appointed Grand Jury, after what may be considered a careful investigation of the lynching, returned no indictments.

Thus the constituted representatives of the people and the law have admitted that so far they have been unable to arrest those guilty of mob action. It may be supposed that no other course, in view of the evidence before it, was open to the Grand Jury and that it did its duty.

Sheriff Louis Corbett, from whom the prisoner was stolen, said that he could identify several members of the lynching party. So far he has failed to do so. So far as can be learned the sheriff has made no attempt to arrest the members whom he could identify.

This newspaper respectfully calls these facts to the attention of Gov. Graves, and asks him if in his opinion the sheriff of Henry County has fully and adequately performed his duties as an officer of the state?

Is the governor of Alabama going to allow this case to drop? Are the law enforcement officers of Alabama going to admit to the world their inability to bring justice in this lynching case? If they are willing to admit that—as must be the case unless vigorous and immediate action is taken by them—then perhaps it is going to be necessary to enact the federal anti-lynching bill and call upon the federal government to enforce our state laws for us.

It is up to Gov. Graves to see that justice is done. If any officer of the law is guilty of neglect of duty, the state should demand his impeachment.

Alabama must act. It must bring about justice. Fifty men flagrantly disregarded the law of the land and murdered a man who had not been proved guilty of any crime by a jury of his peers.

Alabama today stands disgraced before the civilized world.

Bolman, Ala. Eagle
February 9, 1937

"The Beginning And The End of Lynching"

(New York Herald Tribune)

On Tuesday some fifty men broke into a county jail in a little southeastern Alabama town, carried away a cowering Negro, hanged him to a tree and riddled him with bullets. There were no arrests, and the pages of 1937's history were blotted with their first lynching outrage. But it was on the same day, in almost the same hour, that a memorable blow was being struck in another Southern state against the lynching evil—a blow that may end by retiring that form of crime at last into the barbaric past to which it belongs. The Richmond Times-Dispatch in a two-column editorial was formally demanding the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law, on the ground that it saw "no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action."

Responsible Southern opinion has long deplored the lynching evil. Latterly, thoughtful Southern newspapers have begun to suggest that unless their states roused themselves to more vigorous action a Federal law would prove to be the alternative. But The Times-Dispatch is the first influential Southern organ to sweep aside all the old, bitter memories of force bills and the "bloody shirt" and to declare that the time for the South itself to invoke that alternative has come. Virginia has had a strong anti-lynching law on her books for ten years, and there has not been a lynching in the state since its enactment. "But it has become plain," The Times-Dispatch continues, "that few, if any, of the Southern States will follow Virginia's example." Something more must be done "to end the present intolerable situation."

The new anti-lynching bill, already introduced in the House and soon to appear in the Senate, is constructed, as The Times-Dispatch points out, on the sound principle of enforcing Federal action not against the members of the mobs but against the local officers whose dereliction allows the mobs to operate. It thus provides for effective Federal intervention at the points where it will be of the maximum preventive effect, but through the normal Federal court machinery and without the release of swarms of Federal police upon Southern communities. This is closely in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution and involves the least violence to Southern feeling. But overshadowing the terms of the bill itself is the fact that a great Southern newspaper has formally urged its enactment.

There has been small hope of a Federal bill so long as it has seemed to represent a holier-than-thou attempt by a moralistic North to coerce the South into a solution of a Southern problem. But when the South itself begins to look at a Federal act as no more than a convenient mechanism to assist it in meeting the problem of its own accord the whole position changes. The Northern states had no hesitation in inviting the Federal government under the kidnaping law, to assist them in combating that horrible crime. The editorial in "The Richmond Times-Dispatch" means that lynching is falling from its status as a sectional issue to that of an equally horrible crime, appropriate to similar treatment. And that, in turn, means the beginning of the end of lynching.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
February 8, 1937

The Alabama Lynching

The first lynching of the year was that at Abbeville, Alabama, Monday night when a mob seized a prisoner in the hands of the sheriff or his officers and put him to death.

Governor Bibb Graves, as soon as he learned of the action of the mob, sent a captain of the state highway patrol to investigate and report upon the case. Upon that report the governor ordered the judge of the district to summon a special grand jury and the state attorney general announced that he would file impeachment proceedings, charging neglect of duty, against the sheriff of the county.

The governor and attorney general will be commended for their prompt action. Members of the mob are guilty of murder and if it be shown that the sheriff was guilty of neglect of duty he should be discharged from office.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 7, 1937

Lynchings And Powers Of The State

On the lynching in Henry County last Monday, *The Baltimore Evening Sun* commented:

It says much for the state's recent advance in civilization that this is news. Had the mob murder occurred in Georgia, to the east, or in Mississippi, to the west, it would have been much less surprising. But of late Alabama has shown a definite dislike of lynching—a dislike so strong that the sport has become dangerous there.

Perhaps yesterday's occurrence shows that she is slipping. However, be it noted that the sheriff concerned, although he lost his prisoner, says that he recognized some of the mob. Usually the officers give the impression that the lynching was done by visitors from another planet, so strange are they to the eyes of the sheriff and his men. If the sheriff sticks to his identification, some of the lynchers may yet feel the heavy hand of justice; and, if that happens, Alabama's reputation with the outside world will be at least partially restored.

Impeachment proceedings have been ordered against Sheriff Corbitt, of Henry County, and a special Grand Jury is investigating the lynching. Sheriff Corbitt has repeatedly expressed his willingness to identify those he recognized among the men who stole his prisoner from him. His identification of members of the lynching party would constitute perhaps the best defense of himself against any charge of negligence in the performance of his duty.

A bill has been introduced in Congress which provides that any responsible peace officer who fails to protect his prisoner or to apprehend the members of the mob that lynched the prisoner shall be guilty of a felony and fined up to $5,000 or imprisoned for not more than five years. If the federal law were in effect today it might be invoked in this Henry County case.

But the bill is still pending, and the members of Congress will watch with great interest the developments in Alabama. If the state prosecutes the lynchers then the opponents of the federal anti-lynching bill will have a concrete argument against its passage. On the other hand, if the state is unable to punish the guilty persons, sponsors of the bill will have a concrete argument on their side.

The federal anti-lynching bill is not the best answer to the lynching problem. The states themselves must by the proper exercise of their police power and by education

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bring about the end of mob law. This newspaper well understands the arguments of
the sponsors of the federal bill, but it believes that the wisest and most effective
solution of the lynching problem will come
from local authorities and not by imposition
of laws from Washington.

Alabama is definitely on the spot. There

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 7, 1937

MR. EZELL AND THE MOB

Elsewhere on this page is a curious letter from Mr. Clem Ezell, former Mayor of Dothan, regarding the Henry County lynching.

The letter is curious for several reasons.

Although Mr. Ezell heartily approves the mob's action, he begins his letter by alluding with some piety to his "zeal for law enforcement, or allowing the law to take its course."

Whereupon he launches into a 200-word defense of the mob and winds up by misquoting Christ as saying, "Let him who is the least guilty cast the first stone."

There is little use in arguing with Mr. Ezell on the subject. Nor is there much use in debating it with the many other citizens who share his viewpoint.

The men who condone mob violence are not impressed by the eternal fact that something vastly more important than an individual is lynched when a mob assembles. That important something is law, order and the courts, which are fundamental pillars of our society and civilization, and without which every citizen wuold live in peril.

In addition to this, there is always danger of the angry mob killing the wrong man, because the mob does not stop to reason. The mob is actuated by emotion. In the Henry County case, The Eagle learns that there is some doubt in Henry County that the Negro was the one who committed the crime. But even if he were guilty, the law should have been allowed to punish him. The crime was unpardonable, of course, but so was the mob's. Two wrongs have never made a right, and never will.

Mr. Ezell complains of "trickster lawyers" and the slow process of court justice. Then the remedy lies in correcting these evils. They can be corrected. They should be corrected. But they cannot be corrected through lawlessness.

It is an open secret that Mr. Ezell desires to be the next sheriff of Houston county.

In the light of his remarkable espousal of mob law, The Eagle believes his election to the office would be nothing short of a calamity.

For a sheriff's sworn duty is to protect his prisoners with his life, if necessary.

Mr. Ezell not only admits he wouldn't do it in certain cases, but hints he wouldn't be above constituting himself prosecutor, jury, judge and executioner as well, by joining the mob.

Opelika, Ala. News
February 6, 1937

THE LAW IN THEIR HANDS

In the year just ended there was no instance of mob violence in the state of Alabama, and for a number of years this state has been an example to its less thoughtful and law-abiding neighbors on all sides. However, early Tuesday morning a group o fself-righteous citizens entered the jail at Abbeville, removed a lawful prisoner of the law and committed a crime which has been condemned by Christian society since Stephen was stoned.

According to Henry county officers, the mob was orderly and quiet. It was not a group of drunks who pulled the unfortunate accused from his cell; it was a crowd of forty or fifty men who undoubtedly consider themselves pillars of Henry county society, and they were probably well satisfied with themselves when they left the haltered and bullet-heavy body at the side of the country road to go home to have out their sleep. And most likely they slept well.

Every man, whether black or white, inside or out, regardless of his crime, has a right to a trial and, if the verdict warrants, to a decent death. As old as the south is the saying that examples must be made of negroes. It seems never to occur to lynchers that their actions set a far worse example than the crime of the lynched.

We have law in Alabama. We have laws against rape and against attempt to rape, and except for a few regrettable instances the law has not failed to carry outits proper function. A group which attempts to make a stupid and horrible joke of the laws of this state does more to break down the government than any criminal.

If the men who instigated the lynching in Abbeville are proud of what they have done, if they think that they have accomplished something to tell their children about, if they gather old-woman-fashion around the hot stoves of the country stores to describe again and again how the negro kicked and twitched as he died in the cool night and how his body rolled from the car into the ditch on the lonely road, then law and decency mean little in Henry county.

Where there was one crime, there is now a total of more than forty crimes. And no figures in the world can be made to balance the one against the forty.—Eufaula Tribune.

Anniston, Ala. Star
February 6, 1937

LYNCHING

Anti-Lynching Bill Is Attacked By Congressional Leaders

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (U.P.)—House Democratic leaders today planned to block consideration of any anti-lynching legislation at this session.

Chariman Hatton W. Sumners, Democrat, Texas, of the House Judiciary Committee, which has more than 40 anti-lynching bills pending before it flatly opposed such measures "because I am against lynching."

Sumners pointed to statistics showing that under state law enforcement, lynchings have declined from 3.4 per million persons in 1892 to approximately .07 per million in 1936.

"No crime has decreased as rapidly as lynching," Sumners said. "No one dealing with another matter being corrected as fast as this would undertake to shift the responsibility of law enforcement as these bills would shift responsibility from the state to federal government."

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 7, 1937

Lynching in Alabama.

THE NATION'S FIRST 1937 lynching was staged in Alabama last week when an 18-year-old negro was seized by a mob of about 50 men who stormed the jail at Abbeville, took the prisoner to a thicket, hanged him and riddled his body with bullets. He had been accused of assaulting a white woman.

The body was found several hours after the lynching by a deputy sheriff.

Sheriff Corbett said he recognized some of the mob and indicated a special grand jury would be called to investigate.

Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery directed Attorney General Carmichael to conduct an inquiry and file impeachment proceedings "against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted."

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
February 27, 1937

WHEN STATES FALL

In Alabama a few days ago a mob called at the jail after a prisoner had been locked in his cell and demanded that the sheriff turn him over. The sheriff, probably feeling unequal to the task of defending the prisoner surrendered the keys. The prisoner was taken out, carried some distance and lynched in a rather public place, the lynchers lingering to see the aftermath. A grand jury investigation followed, the sheriff was called and testified. Yes, he had recognized some of the men in the mob, etc. The grand jury failed to indict.

A few days later the information leaked out in Washington that plans are under way to pass a federal law against lynching and take lynchers into the federal courts. That will be different.

For a number of years there have come threats from the north, east and west, of making lynching a federal offense. It has been fought back one way and another. We would not be surprised to see the threat made good this time. There is a strong feeling out of the South that southern states are not doing what they can do to prevent lynchings. There is a feeling that the situation would be far different if the parties who make up the mobs knew that they would be brought into the federal courts and tried for murder.

Here is another case where the state loses "rights" to the federal government because the state is doing the job poorly. If the states would handle the lynching problem as they should handle it, there would be no further talk of federal interference. And this goes for other matters in which the states are slow to act in safe-guarding the rights of the people.

Lynchings-1937
Discussion

White Press, Southern.

5570

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
February 8, 1937

New Approach to an Old Stench

Every new year revives the hope that in the coming twelve-month the South will for the first time remain undisgraced by a lynching. Every year has seen the hope defeated. We managed to get through January without raising the old stench, but February 2 revived it. At Headland, Ala., the usual mob, overpowered the jailer in the usual fashion and lynched an 18-year-old Negro accused—this time—of the usual crime. Some say they hanged the victim before they shot him. Others say they shot him before they hanged him. All agree that no judge or jury ever tried him.

The crime is timed with the introduction in Congress of a new anti-lynching bill virtually identical in terms with the Costigan-Wagner bill which was choked to death in the Senate on May 1, 1935 at the end of a Southern filibuster. Will it be choked to death again? It is hard to say. Our guess would be that it is good for at least one more choking. But not for indefinitely repeated chokings, unless the South frees itself of this form of savagery by its own unaided efforts—a somewhat forlorn possibility, but yet a possibility, for the lynching curve is undeniably on the downgrade.

One reason why Southern filibusters are not likely to prove as effectiye in the future as they have been in the past, is because the idea of Federal intervention in the stamping out of intrastate crimes shown to be beyond effective prosecution by the States themselves, has become less abhorrent to the States-righters as one State after another has welcomed the ministrations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with kidnapings and kindred offenses. It requires logical agility of a high order to denounce Federal anti-lynching intervention as an invasion of States rights and at the same time to welcome Federal intervention in kidnaping as a safeguard of the lives of States citizens.

Another reason why Southern filibusters against Federal anti-lynching bills are likely to lose potency is because they no longer excite the old admiration back home that they used to. The idea is taking deeper and deeper root that lynching is a corrosive Southern disgrace and that, if it can't be eradicated any other way, it is worth risking a little help from the central government. Signs that the old Southern squeamishness over Federal anti-lynching bills is beginning to evaporate, are appearing in the South's newspapers. The Richmond *Times-Dispatch* on last Tuesday devoted a searching and bluntly-worded editorial to the thesis that there is no visible "hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action" and called upon Congress to make the anti-lynching bill law.

Other Southern newspapers had already moved to this position. They include the *Virginian-Pilot* which, departing from its old hostility to this type of legislation, urged the passing of the Costigan-Wagner bill two years ago. Dealing with this measure on February 16, 1935, we said:

> To the Virginian-Pilot, which has in the past feared that the difficulties that would flow from a Federal anti-lynching law might outweigh its benefits, it no longer seems reasonable to entertain that view. It has become wholly illogical, it seems to us, to applaud the Federal Department of Justice for its efficient pursuit of bank robbers and kidnapers, and at the same time distrust a proposed Department of Justice pursuit of persons who, as members of orgiastic groups, hang men to trees or burn them at the stake, without benefit of judge or jury.

If it should be asked why Southern newspapers are moving now to a position that filled them with apprehension several years ago, the answer would have to be, we think, that the "moral climate' of the South, as regards this peculiarly Southern foulness has undergone a great change. Contemporaneously with this change, has taken place a reappraisal of the States' rights dogma in the course of which it has been denuded of much of its old chest-thumping mumbo-jumbo.

The legalists—Senators Bailey and Borah among them—continue to warn us that a Federal anti-lynching bill would do something terrible and irreparable to the reserved rights of the States. Legalistically, that may make sense. Morally, it makes no sense at all. There is no such thing, morally speaking, as a reserved right to deal in our own way with a form of collective murder which our own way has uniformly failed to punish.

We have failed, in the exercise of our unabridged State sovereignty, to clean up this foul thing and it stinks all over the lot. It is worth sharing a bit of our superfluous and unused sovereignty with the Federal government if it will expedite the clean-up. There is at least some reason to believe that it would.

Selma, Ala. Times
February 9, 1937

SOUND AND FURY

When the negro was lynched last week in Henry County, Governor Graves acted promptly and wisely in calling for "a thorough investigation," and strengthened his position by instructing the Attorney-General to bring impeachment proceedings against any derelict official. Well and good, for Alabama's Chief Magistrate. But why add this bit of political hokum, to the shameful proceeding: "Alabama so long as I am Governor, never will tolerate mob law."

The Henry County Grand Jury met and after the usual inquiry it was announced, "no true bills are found."

It is recalled that when Gelders, professed Communist, was seized by three cowardly villains in Birmingham, and carried 50 miles in a car, stripped and flogged and left by the way-side, half-dead, Gov. Graves was rightly incensed and declared "they can't do such things and get away with it in this state." So far nothing has happened and nothing is anticipated.

Gov. Graves is not to blame for these two flagrant miscarriages of the law but he is to blame for his tall talk, which was nothing more than a lot of sound and fury, intended for Northern consumption. The Old Testament warns us, "Be not rash with thy mouth."

Anniston, Ala. Star
February 3, 1937

A Stain On The Record

While Governor Hugh White of Mississippi was extending congratulations to the sheriffs yesterday on the fact that the state had gone through 1936 without a lynching, the newspapers were reporting that a stain had been placed on Alabama's record early this year by a mob killing. This occurred at Abbeville where a Negro suspected of attacking a white woman was taken from the jail and hanged at the scene of the alleged crime.

Governor Graves is to be commended for his prompt action in ordering an investigation of the lynching and his announced determination to learn whether the sheriff and jailer were negligent in their duty in regard to protecting their prisoner. The Governor has stated that steps will be taken to impeach the sheriff if it is found in the investigation that such action is justified, and he will have the support of the citizens of the whole state in that stand.

However, while Mississippi was being credited with a clear record in 1936, it was noted that it was the first year in several in which there had been no lynching.

"This is the first year since the turn of the century that Misssissippi has been without a case of lynching at the hands of a mob," the Governor wrote. "Realizing that this enviable record could not have been made without continuous vigilance and vigorous enforcement of our laws on the part of law-enforcing officers. I am taking this occasion to commend you upon your part in keeping our state free of unseemly mob action."

Alabama, fortunately, has not had many lynchings in recent years. But that fact does not make the Abbeville incident any less shameful and revolting.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 9, 1937

THE WHITEWASH

The coat of whitewash which the Henry county grand jury smeared over the lynching is not particularly surprising because the mob's action received the blessings of the majority of the people of the section.

Sheriff Corbitt has declared repeatedly that he recognized several of the mobsters. There is no way of knowing, of course, whether or not he revealed their names to the grand jury. But if he did, then the grand jury not only balked at its sworn duty, but made Corbitt the goat.

And, this being true, the Sheriff emerges as the bravest man in the entire mess. His self respect is intact for he performed his sworn duty against great odds to the best of his ability—and, moreover, he can always remember with satisfaction that he was not a member of a gang of lawless killers.

We reproduce on this page an editorial from The New York Herald Tribune which the thoughtful reader will find of interest. The Eagle does not agree that a Federal anti-lynching bill should be passed; but The Eagle does know that every time a grand jury refuses to return indictments in a lynching the possibility of a Federal law becomes more probable.

If Virginia hasn't had a lynching since she passed a strong anti-lynch law 10 years ago, it might be well [illegible] the Alabama Legislature to inquire into the nature of the law with a view of applying it to this State.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 4, 1937

The Picture The Eagle Didn't Run

Some newspapers believe in illustrating the gruesome, the horrible and repulsive in unvarnished fashion; The Eagle does not. It may be wrong in declining to print pictures of such brutalities as the lynchings, gory wrecks and so forth, but this newspaper sticks to that conviction. Above, is the outline of the body of Wes Johnson, Negro lynched in Henry County the other day. Printing the picture as it came to the news desk may have been of "educational value;" again it may not. But The Eagle invites the opinion of its readers upon pictures of this sort. Write what you think about pictures of this kind and address your letter to the editor of The Eagle. They will be welcomed. This picture was taken by an Eagle staff photographer and was treated in this newspaper's plant.

Columbia, S. C. Record
February 3, 1937

They Will be Surprised.

Wes Johnson, a negro, was arrested on charges of attacking a white girl in Alabama and, if guilty, would have been convicted by an Alabama jury, punished by Alabama courts.

But he was never tried. A group of armed men took him from the custody of authorities at the Abbeville, Ala., jail and a few hours later there was his body hanging from a tree near Headland to complete the all too familiar and excuseless story of law and order's surrender—another lynching, futile and foolish, debasing and dangerous.

Alabama has been making endeavors at achieving something like a civilized regard for organized government, but this "undetermined number of men" who do not trust Alabama juries to do their duty bring them all to naught.

And these very men, big with the courage of numbers—25 carloads against one unarmed Negro prisoner—will be surprised when the federal anti-lynching bill is eventually passed and made law, as it will be if the states do not take the obvious steps that can be taken to prevent lynchings.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Leader-Enterprise
January 28, 1937

LAW OVER LYNCH LAW

There is no crime so bad but lynching makes it worse. One didn't need to mention the word around the jail in Florence, South Carolina, the other day to see that things looked as bad for an angry crowd as for a Negro in its clutches. News dispatches tell how close those aroused citizens came to being a party to a lynching.

But what seemed like mob murder in the making became an orderly step in the due process of law. First the sheriff appealed to the crowd to forgo violence and give the law—and the man—a fair chance. Then the father of the young woman alleged to have been molested pleaded with fellow citizens to let the law have its way. With that the crowd put up its vengeance and gave the prisoner to the sheriff.

It is satisfying to see how effectively that indignant southern crowd was able to curb its actions. Mob emotions usually run wild at such a time. The facts emphasize how strong is the average individual's instinctive respect for law to which the sheriff and the father appealed in this outbreak. And whatever this proves for the individual it proves for people as a whole. The supremacy of collective reason over mob rule manifested in this episode helps to dispel a sectional libel predicted on the mistaken opinion that southern communities prefer lynching to law.

Lynchings usually get all the publicity they deserve. We hope the happening in South Carolina gets al the public notice it rightly deserves.—Christian Science Monitor.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 3, 1937

The Lynching In Henry County

Alabama, which for years now has had one of the best records among the Southern states in the matter of lynchings, is the scene of the nation's first lynching in 1937. An 18-year-old Negro, accused of assaulting a young white woman, was lynched Monday night in Henry County. It is a great pity that a group of some 50 men should have outraged the law in this way, taken a human life without due trial and marred Alabama's relatively good record.

Let no one think that the crime of lynching is any longer condoned by the people of Alabama, or of any other state. It has been obvious for years that public sentiment did not uphold lynchings, as some have pretended to believe. There can no longer be any doubt on this score since the publication of the American Institute of Public Opinion's poll last Sunday on sentiment with regard to making lynching a federal crime. In the South 65 per cent of the people were shown to be in favor of a federal law against lynching, and in the nation 70 per cent. Since, even among those who condemn lynching, there is in the South some opposition to a federal statute on the subject, Southern sentiment against lynching is certainly much stronger than the 65 per cent favoring a federal anti-lynching law.

The reaction to this Henry County lynching in official circles is most gratifying. Gov. Graves, saying that so long as he is governor Alabama will not tolerate mob rule, has ordered a thorough investigation into the crime. Let the investigation proceed at once. If any of the lynchers can be brought to justice, Alabama will have done much to atone for the crime.

Lynchings—1937
& Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5571

Columbia, S/C State
February 10, 1937

THE WAR AGAINST LYNCHING.

The New York Herald Tribune sees in a Virginia paper's demand for the enactment of the federal anti-lynching law, "The Beginning of the End of Lynching."

The occasion for the newspaper comment was the recent murder of a Negro prisoner, who was taken by a mob from an Alabama jail, hung to a tree and riddled with bullets. There was no defense of "the majesty of the law" by officers of the law, and no arrests.

The New York journal is probably correct in sensing that the end of such crimes, with assured freedom for the perpetrators, is in sight. But the beginning of that end is not just now. It has taken a long time to build up public opinion, and the task has been peculiarly difficult in the Southeastern and deep Southern states where, because of the practically numerical equality of the races, race antagonism was most bitter.

The Herald Tribune cites Virginia as having had a strong anti-lynching law on the statute books for ten years; and as having had no lynching in that time. Because of political and other conditions, that was rather easy for Virginia. It was vastly different in South Carolina where a governor in the latter part of the last century encouraged mobs by declaring he would, in certain cases, lead lynching parties; and when prisoners were surrendered to lynchers without question; and announcement made twelve hours in advance of the running of a railroad train to a lynching! The train ran and the lynching took place.

When the mob spirit was at its worst forty-six years ago The State was founded, and one of its first acts was to declare against lynching for any cause. It was, we believe, the first newspaper in the South to take that stand. Forty-one years ago, its editor was denounced in public mass meeting called for the purpose of condemning The State's condemnation of a lynching. A state senator presided at the meeting, and the editor was at its conclusion, burned in effigy.

But hard as the going was, public sentiment was formed and strengthened. So much so that in the first term of D. C. Heyward as governor (he was inaugurated in January, 1903) the legislature voted him a substantial fund—$30,000 we believe—to employ Pinkerton detectives to gather evidence against lynchers. With evidence thus obtained, a lyncher was brought to trial. The jury finally set him free, but his defense cost him and his family a small fortune. The apprehension that lynching had become a pastime only safe for men of means, had a very sobering effect.

About the same time the legislature made a county, in which a lynching occurred, liable to the heirs of the mob-murdered man for $2,000. Not very effective because of the difficulties of collecting, but nevertheless a gesture to strengthen the hands of law officers in defending prisoners. They could fall back upon the plea that, in duty bound, they must protect the taxpayers from the cost of a lynching!

There have, however, been many brave and duty-loving sheriffs and deputies in the South who have rightly maintained that in resisting mobs they were not protecting a criminal or alleged criminal, but were defending the law which stands for civilization.

More than a year ago, in comment on a Southern lynching, The State declared that if the federal anti-lynching law was enacted, the responsibility would be upon the lynchers and those officers of the law who were tender with mobs. We then held that all the states having accepted, not only without protest but cheerfully, the intervention of the federal government against kidnapers, the logic of resistence to the anti-lynching law on the ground that it abrogated the right of states, was weakened. We regarded the anti-lynching law as less of an invasion of the rights of states than a federal child labor law.

The State said then and we repeat, that when it comes to taking a position which might bring upon us any moral responsibility for murders by mobs, such position we will not take. With us civilization comes first.

Charlottesville, Va. Progress
February 13, 1937

MOB RULE IN ALABAMA

The first lynching of the year having occurred in Alabama, Governor Bibb Graves declares, "Alabama, so long as I am Governor never will tolerate mob rule." Although he may not have so understood it, the Governor's assertion is in effect a challenge, a challenge to none other than Bibb Graves, Governor of Alabama. For if the State is not going to tolerate mob rule, what does he propose to do about this flagrant instance of mob rule?

No Governor of any State in the Union condones mob rule. That goes without saying. But some are more vigorous than others in combating it.

The recent lyching is not the first in Alabama. We mention that fact in sorrow rather than in reproach. With the Governor on record as declaring that mob rule will never be tolerated in the State while he holds office, the obvious question is, what is he going to do about it? —Roanoke Times.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
February 16, 1937

THE MONITOR LOOKS AT LYNCHING

Because it was the first instance of mob violence in 1937 and the first lynching in Alabama in several years, the Henry county rope and lead party which put away Wes Johnson has come in for discussion in a great number of leading American papers. Invariably, the question of a federal anti-lynching law has been coupled with comment on the killing of the Alabama negro.

The Christian Science Monitor, realizing that lynching in the south is not merely the manifestation of a widespread race prejudice but rather the stupid attempt of ignorant and unthinking mobs to take the law in their hands without thought of justice, comments upon the spirit in the south which supports the movement for an anti-lynching law.

The Monitor states:

In contrast to the customary aftermath to deplore lynching and do nothing to prevent further outbreaks by prosecuting citizens who participate in such crimes, popular feeling is now crystallizing in a purposeful direction. The Richmond Times-Dispatch recommends enactment of a federal anti-lynching law as stringently phrased and enforced as the federal kidnaping law. It cites the Virginia statute against lynching as a model—and with good effect. In the ten years since its enactment Virginia has not had a lynching.

That this drastic proposal to prevent lynching emanates from the south is significant in more ways than one. It attests a sectional preference for law and order where the rights of the individual are at stake, and a natural dislike for uncivilized orgies of communal crime. This attitude embraces a clearer, collective recognition of the fundamental fact that two lawless deeds never mend one broken law. Appeals for enactment of a federal anti-lynching statute show furthermore that lynching is not merely the south's problem. They appeal to the humanitarian impulse in all people. There is increasing assurance that either by state or federal action lynching will be stopped.

Clarksville, Tenn., Star
February 11, 1937

Down in Alabama the citizens lynched themselves a Negro, and the strange thing about it, the Governor is getting after the sheriff because that upholder of the law forgot to say anything about the party until several hours after it happened.

Athens, Ala., Democrat
February 11, 1937

SHERIFFS AND LYNCHINGS

Every man in the deep South knows that grand jury action against members of a lynching mob is an empty gesture. It means nothing except an increasing contempt for lawful processes and an increasing deference to the mob spirit.

The way to strike at the lynching evil is to strike at the county sheriffs. They love their jobs as well as their voting neighbors. There is nothing except his family that a jobholder loves as much as his job.

There isn't a sheriff in Alabama that, given fair notice, is not capable of preventing a lynching. Everybody knows that. Only in very exceptional circumstances is a sheriff helpless. A determined peace officer who has any sense knows how to stop a mob. Everybody in this state knows that is true.

It is very well for Governor Graves to demand a grand jury investigation of the recent lynching in Henry county. That means that grand jurors, some of whom may have been in the mob, will return a no-bill. They nearly always do. Grand jurors are the neighbors and friends of lynchers. They are never likely to take vigorous action against mob killers. Petit juries are even less likely to take final action against neighbors who are known to have participated in a lynching, since the victim of the lynching invariably is the object of loathing by all good citizens.

But Governor Graves is hitting a home-run when he calls upon Attorney-General Albert Carmichael to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff of Henry county. That's the way to go after the lynch-loving yeomanry of our fair state. They don't like that. They can't handle it. They know that a negligent sheriff will be tried, not by jurors that helped lynch a man, or at least live next door to a lyncher, but by the supreme court of Alabama.

In other words, they know that a negligent officer must give an account of his conduct to the highest judicial authority in the state. He will get a fair trial, which is one reason that lynchers do not relish impeachment proceedings.

In demanding an impeachment trial of the sheriff of Henry county, Governor Graves is acting in the best traditions of Alabama governors.

The governors of this state have always hated lynchings. The Advertiser is glad to reaffirm what it has frequently said before, that Governor Bibb Graves has been one of the most diligent and courageous foes of lynchers that ever sat in the executive chair of a state that has never had a governor who was indifferent to mob violence.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Asheville, N. C., Times
February 23, 1937

The Decline In Lynching

POSSIBLY nothing will deter those citizens, an increasing number of whom are of the South, who favor the proposed federal anti-lynching law; but they will do well to deliberate over a statement by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute pointing out the tremendous decrease of mob violence since 1887.

In this period Dr. Patterson finds that lynchings declined 90 per cent. due, he says, to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

The record shows 1,531 mob victims in the period 1887-1896, and 151 between 1927 and 1936.

Dr. Patterson lists three factors as contributing to the slow but great advancement of law against lawlessness.

1. The disappearance of frontier characteristics from the South. In the frontier West and South lynching was prevalent.

2. The breaking down of isolation in the South by the telegraph, telephone, radio, and paved roads.

3. "Increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

If this movement to have a federal police law virtually replace the police laws of the states had been proposed say in 1890. it would have been more logical than today. That was the period in which over 1,500 victims were done to death by mobs.

But at that time the fever to make all things new and better by statute law had not gained the pitch which we find in it now.

And so perhaps the well meaning but mistaken statesmen and publicists, North and South, will press on for a law that enacted will have this unhappy though unintended effect: to condemn and belittle the efforts—the successful efforts—of millions of people, chiefly in the South where most of the lynching occurs, who after years of hard struggle begin to see the substantial fruits of their labors.

Wise teachers and law-givers praise and encourage all reaching out toward justice and right doing. This sound pedagogy is now indirectly decried even by some prominent Southern newspapers and Southern citizens.

For the proposed federal law, to say nothing of its advance into new areas of centralization of all things political and governmental at Washington, will inevitably instill into the thinking of the Southern people the false and harmful notion that they have done badly and not well in this matter. Will that harsh and unjust criticism from the Congress of the United States foster co-operation with a federal law enacted to supersede the police powers of the states?

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
March 3, 1937

The Negro Is Dead, But The Enthusiasm Of Mob Spirit Lives On

Editor of The Eagle:

I have been a constant reader of the Eagle for some time and have read all the letters conserning the Lynching of Wes Johnson

Now there is a few words I would like to say I agree with Mr McKnight a think he was right in every statement he made and expressed my thoughts very much Also Mr Ezelle I think Houston county aught to be proud of a gentleman like hem and do all they can to make him thier next shereff his letter I am sure won him a scare of votes

Now a word to Mr E E Johnson of Abbeville Ala will you please turn to Second Samuel read the 13 chapter 32 verse and Zech 14:2 also Deut. 22:25-27 and I am sure you will find that the mob men of Henry Co. did the right thing by puting the negro to death surely Mr Johnson has not just read one scripture and not looking on further in his Bible we should read it through and believe according to our understanding now we surely read in these scriptures I have given you where way back in those days they did the same for a man who committed rape as they did for West Johnson.

Now here is hoping that no other white lady is attacked by a negro man who is not worth the powder and lead that it takes to kill him with, and if ever there is he will get the same that Wes Johnson got

H. C. PHILLIPS

Abbeville Ala R 1
March 1, 1937

Lynchings-1937
Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

5572

Millen, Ga., News
February 11, 1937

BASCOM ANTHONY ON LYNCHING

He is oftener right than wrong, but he's dead wrong in wanting a bill passed that would include the payment, by the county, of $10,000 to the lynched person's family. Lynching, like many other crimes, indefensible, but to reward the family of the person lynched would encourage rather than retard the crime.—Editor.

Dr. Anthony's article in part follows:

"You probably won't agree with what I shall now say about our lynching bees. But if I were Hitler I'd make a law that automatically remoed from office any sheriff with all his deputies, bailiffs and jailor in any county where a duly arrested prisoner was lynched. I'd also make the county automatically due $10,000 to the lynched person's family. If we have not enough moral character to stop lynching then maybe our love of office and the love of money would be our best substitute for character. Over half the lynchings in the United States for 1936 took place in Georgia, be it said to our shame. If the officers responsible for the arrest and detention of these who were lynched were automatically removed from office then lynchings would soon become as rare as the Dionne quintuplets. I wish some member of the Legislature would introduce such a bill."

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
February 5, 1937

A National Disgrace.

There has been another mob murder in Alabama, with a Negro as the victim. The Negro was Wes Johnson, a young farm hand, whose bullet-riddled body was found handing to a tree near Headland after a posse of armed men took him from jail at Abbeville the night before. Authorities said he was charged with attacking a white girl.

Johnson had been arrested and placed in jail. There can be no doubt that had he been given his day in court he would have been convicted if there had been the slightest evidence of his guilt. Everybody in Alabama, including the mobsters in this case, knows that a Negro in that State who commits or attempts to commit a crime against a white woman had as well go hang himself.

There was no chance for Johnson to escape justice. He was in the hands of the law and would have suffered the penalty which the law prescribes for his crime or for the crime of which he was accused. Yet, according to a dispatch from Headland, about twenty-five automobiles containing an undetermined number of men drove up to the jail, took the prisoner from the jailer, and put him to death.

Late reports are that no arrests have been made in connection with the lynching. The history of such outrages in Alabama and most other Southern States teaches the public to suspect that no arrests will be made, or certainly that no member of the mob will be held to answer for the murder of the Negro in defiance of constituted authority. In all probability the Coroner will find that Johnson came to his death "at the hands of parties unknown," and that will end the matter.

A number of anti-lynching bills have been offered in Congress in the last several years but none has passed. The measures have been defeated largely through the opposition of Senators from Southern States, where the lynching evil flourishes. These Senators have contended that a Federal anti-lynching law would infringe the rights of the States, but the States should not claim rights which they refuse to exercise. If States have a right to condone lynching, as many of them apparently do, it would seem that the government also has a right to do what it can to suppress mob lawlessness, since the Constitution of the United States declares no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

Congress now has before it another anti-lynching bill. The measure should be enacted into law, since the evil at which it is aimed is a national disgrace. Many who have opposed such legislation have been forced to the conclusion that the only hope for stamping out lynching is in Federal action.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 10, 1937

A Protest From Chairman Of A. A. C. P.

Editor of The Eagle:

We feel that as the mouthpiece of the best element of colored citizens, we would not do our duty if we did not comment on the picture of the lynching carried in The Eagle last Thursday.

Let us say at the beginning that such incidents are regretable, and we do not condone such criminal acts as the victim of the lynching was supposed to have committed. We believe not only this crime, but all crimes perpetuated against society should receive just punishment. But not only does a lynching disregard established law and order, but it completely ignores the guilt or innocence of the victim.

Not only is this true, but a lynching creates a hysteria among the entire populace, and thereby makes it unsafe for the most law-abiding Negroes. A lynching stirs up latent animosities, and thereby makes for bad race relationship.

If the law was allowed to take its course all of these things would be negligible. There is no virtue in a lynching that will stand the test of enlightened civilization in organized society.

If lynch law is justifiable, then the number of mulatto Negroes would give the Negro just reason to stage a number of lynchings.

The picture that you printed can only serve to create more prejudice. And surely we can do without any more of this.

We heartily compliment you on the editorial stand that you have taken in regard to the lynching.

H. SHIVERS, Chairman Press and Publicity Committee, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dothan, Ala.,
Feb. 7, 1937.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The picture in question could not properly be called a photograph of the mob's victim, for that detail of the picture had been removed from the plate. And the purpose of publishing that, as explained in the cut-line accompanying the picture, was to obtain public opinion regarding the printing of gruesome pictures of any nature. The reader response confirmed The Eagle's opinion that such pictures should not be published.)

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 11, 1937

Sound And Fury

(Selma Times-Journal)

When the Negro was lynched last week in Henry County, Governor Graves acted promptly and wisely in calling for "a thorough investigation," and strengthened his position by instructing the Attorney-General to bring impeachment proceedings against any derelict official. "Well and good, for Alabama's Chief Magistrate. But why add this bit of political hokum to the shameful proceeding: "Alabama so long as I am Governor, never will tolerate mob law."

The Henry County Grand Jury met and after the usual inquiry it was announced, "no true bills are found."

It is recalled that when Gelders, professed Communist, was seized by three cowardly villains in Birmingham, and carried 50 miles in a car, stripped and flogged and left by the way-side, half-dead, Gov. Graves was rightly incensed and declared "they can't do such things and get away with it in this State." So far nothing has happened and nothing is anticipated.

Gov. Graves is not to blame for these two flagrant miscarriages of the law but he is to blame for his tall talk, which was nothing more than a lot of sound and fury, intended for northern consumption. The Old Testament warns us, "Be not rash with thy mouth."

Tarboro, N. C. Southerner
February 4. 1937

Something New in Lynchings

In most particulars, the lynching yesterday near Headland, Alabama, of a strapping, 18-year-old Negro farm hand complied with the accepted formula for mob rule in the South. The victim, accused of assaulting a white woman, was being held in a jail which lacked a great deal of being mob-proof. Fifty men stormed it, held the sheriff and the jailer prisoner until the Negro could be removed from a cell, and later shot the alleged criminal an strung him to a tree.

Continuing the social graces demanded in all polite lynching parties in the South, Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery instructed Attorney General A. A. Carmichael to conduct an inquiry. Then the chief executive made the customary pronouncement: "As long as I am governor of this state, mob rule will not be tolerated."

At this point, however, there is a possbiility that the lynching formula will be discarded for something quite original. Under all conventional rules, the sheriff is supposed to say that he has not the slightest idea concerning the identity of any member of the mob; newspapers are supposed to fume and fuss over the lack of official initiative; the governor is supposed to declare that all possible attempts to solve the matter have failed and that the investigation is at an end, and finally, everybody is supposed to settle down to normal again and pretend that the lynching was just one of those unsolved and unsolvable crimes that couldn't be helped.

But Sheriff Louis Corbett upset the apple cart. Perhaps he is one of those individuals who do not care for the little conventionalities of life. Or maybe he is just plain dumb, and didn't know what was expected of a sheriff under the circumstances. At any rate, he stepped out of his role to remark that he recognized some of the men in the lynching party and that a special grand jury would be called to investigate. This little piece of forgetfulness of the social niceties incident to a lynching is likely to turn into a tough break for the sheriff, especially when re-election time comes around, but what of it? A man possessed of the originality of Sheriff Corbett is too original to be wasting his time on a sheriff's job anyway.

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
February 11, 1937

LYNCHING IN ALABAMA.

The nation's first 1937 lynching was staged in Alabama last week when an 18-year-old negro was seized by a mob of about 50 men who stormed the jail at Abbeville, took the prisoner to a thicket, hanged him and riddled his body with bullets. He had been accused of assaulting a white woman.

The body was found several hours after the lynching by a deputy sheriff.

Sheriff Corbett said he recognized some of the mob and indicated a special grand jury would be called to investigate.

Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery directed Attorney General Carmichael to conduct an inquiry and file impeachment proceedings against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted."

Charlotte, N. C., News
February 3, 1937

As If It Was a Crime

Alabama, after a gallant fight in which it has staved off lynchings for more than a year, succumbed to the malady yesterday and gave the nation its first mob murder in 1937. This year's was on the 33rd day, as compared to the 74th day last year, and the 11th day the year before. Last year's lynch victims were nine — five in Georgia, two in Arkansas, one in Mississippi and one in Florida. That was less than half the 20 of the previous year and, beside, 1936 presented evidence of a genuine determination to stamp out mob law. Officers prevented 35 lynchings, and 30 of these instances were in the South.

Wes Johnson, a six-foot Negro youth, was in the jail at Headland, Ala., awaiting trial on a charge of raping a white woman. The mob imprisoned the sheriff and the jailer, took the Negro out, shot him and hung him to a limb. Sheriff Louis Corbett declared that he recognized certain members of the mob. Governor Bibb Graves, whose firm stand with respect to lynchings has made Alabama outstanding, ordered an immediate investigation with a promise to bring about the impeachment of any officer of the law who should fail in his duty.

Just to show the vigor with which Alabama may be expected to prosecute its investigation: Last May, soldiers snatched three Negroes from a mob in Huntsville; police officers, also in May, recovered a Negro from a mob near Goodwater; militiamen faced a mob with machine guns and protected a prisoner at Anniston a month or so later. They don't coddle lynchers in Alabama, but treat them as ordinary criminals, which they are.

Fayette, Miss. Chronicle
February 5. 1937

An Alaba[illegible]ynched a negro youth, charged with attacking a white woman, on Tuesday. This is the first lynching so far noted in 1937. As m[illegible] as we deprecate lynch law, we are sure that summary justice will continue to be meted to rapists in the South when and wherever such crimes occur.

Charlotte, N. C., News
February 10. 1937

No Different

The editorial in last Sunday's News headed The Alabama Way seems to have been somewhat premature. The government of Alabama has a way of saving prisoners from mobs, all right, as it has demonstrated on more than a few occasions. And it appeared from Governor Graves' prompt action after the lynching in Alabama last week, the first in the United States for 1937, that the State was going to make up in the vigor of its prosecution for the ineffectiveness of the officers of the law at Henry County jail.

But grand juries in Alabama, it turns out, are no different where lynchings are concerned from other grand juries in the South. This one failed to return any indictments. No, it did not investigate the conduct of the sheriff. Yes, it whitewashed the whole affair.

We have learned, however, to expect the unusual from Alabama, and it may be that some way will yet be found to circumvent the unwillingness of citizens in a community to indict other citizens for a mere mob murder.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
February 11. 1937

Last week a negro man was lynched in Alabama for the usual cause, assault, of which he was charged. We do not approve of lynching whites or blacks, but believe in law and order. But is it not possibly true that this lynching is an echo of the farce trials of several negroes at Scottsboro, where continual butting in of outside influences have prevented the law being carried out?

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Discussions.

White Press, Southern.

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Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
May 28, 1937

UNFORTUNATE FOR BAINBRIDGE

The burning of a negro's body, after he had been shot and killed by officers, in the discharge of their duty, was indeed unfortunate for that community. Last Saturday two young women were outraged and their bodies mutilated almost beyond recognition. This brutal crime was committed near the city of Bainbridge, in an isolated section of forest near a river. The bodies were dragged to a secluded spot and thrown in the underbrush. After an all night search by officers and citizens, the negro who committed the crime was caught and arrested in a nearby town, Dothan, Alabama. He confessed to his actions and to the murder of the two women; the officers, in order to avoid trouble, decided to carry the culprit to Savannah. While enroute to that city, the negro attempted a daring escape by jumping from the automobile and running. The officers fired upon him—some of the bullets taking effect, the negro died instantly. The body was brought back to Bainbridge and turned over to a negro funeral home for burial. When it became known that the negro had been caught and his dead body was in the mortuary, a hundred or more people gathered around the undertaker's place, stormed and overpowered the attendants, carrying the body through the streets of the negro residential section, and then to the baseball park where kerosene was applied to fuel stacked around the negro's body and soon it was cremated.

Such action on the part of a citizenry is inexcusable and without justification. The crime committed by the negro meant a death sentence by the court, but after he had been shot and killed by the officers, common decency would have demanded a funeral and burial.

The occurrence is regretable and a blot on a law abiding community. Such crimes of course, causes the blood of our people to boil, but when it is known that such criminals will be shown no mercy by the courts and that they will receive the death penalty, be they white or colored, the perpetrators should be dealt with under the terms of the law and the sanctity of the community upheld and protected.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
June 1, 1937

QUIT YOUR LYNCHING!

Congressman Sumners of Texas is chairman of the House judiciary committee, we believe. As such he feels responsible—in addition to being a Southerner—for the anti-lynching bill which has passed the House after introduction by a New York Congressman who has a well-shaded district, but perhaps has never been where one has to carry a lantern to see his way in a crowd down here. He has given interviews and written Southern governors about it, and cries, even as of old: "Help me, Cassius, or we sink!"

He warns all, that if "they" do not stop lynching—which generally is done unexpectedly and suddenly by a small number, some of them quite irresponsible—a federal lynching law will be passed, and the federal grand juries, once in a great while, first in the Northern and then in the Southern District, will indict somebody or other if they can learn who they are, or even find John Doe and Richard Roe indictments—and there will be great times at the trials.

Under the President's court bill, even some of the new Northern Judges may be assigned to try such cases.

Suppose that somebody introduce a bill up there to indict the sheriffs, the constables, the governor and district attorneys who have failed to put down the mobs in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, New York, California, where thousands, innumerable times, have gathered and broken many laws; have defied the police and the courts and all constituted authority; have denied the right to others not affiliated with them to work; have stoned and beaten non-affiliated employes; have stopped business; have taken possession of plants and places of business; have stopped transportation and business. Why not such a federal law? These things take place, have taken place, will take place, and "conciliation" and "arbitration" and "conference" are the resort by the States where these things have occurred. Let the Federal government take charge of it. More than 70,000 are going out now—and they know what it means.

Then, again, why not introduce a bill to give the federal government authority to indict all those scoundrels who have kidnaped, abused and killed poor little children, grown men, women? Gangs of the large "cultivated" and "literate" cities who have taken men for rides and crossed State boundaries? And why not have the Government take charge of the unconscionable and criminal rackets in the large cities?

We do not condone lynching at all, and wish that all citizens of this and other States would abide by the law—resort to it for punishment of crimes. But we have to bear with it—the people of the East and West do not. But nevertheless the people of New York, by their Congressman's bill, would administer our police laws. They always are telling us what to do in the South. We are always wrong, deficient, omissive and commissive in some way—we always measure short when their yardstick is laid to us mentally, physically, sentimentally, economically, educationally, artistically, productively, and otherwise.

We ask them to clean their own stables. We know very well whence comes the motive of these bills and anti-lynch bills. We are not one whit deceived.

At San Perdo, California, last week, a policeman shot a longshoreman. There was a mass meeting of 4000 marine workers who "took over" San Pedro for the day in protest, and defied the police. They paralyzed the lawful control of the city. Work on the water front was halted and business places closed. Yet we are unlawful in the South!

And so we ask that we give them a Roland for their Oliver. We want some federal bills giving the government power to straighten out some conditions in other places if we are to have a federal anti-lynch law. And we would like to read some of our Southern Congressmen telling them that. What happened in California until Southern Representatives helped the Western Congressmen pass the anti-alien law? Plenty of assaults upon Orientals! But their Congressmen now recall the help we gave them then. Introduce a

Chester, S. C., Reporter
May 31, 1937

The Bainbridge, G[illegible] affair a few nights ago made more votes in all probability for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. A negro guilty of a hideous crime, had been shot to death by officers while attempting to escape, and a mob, not content with the negro's death, collected, took the body from an undertaking place, dragged it about and committed other indignities that no civilized community should tolerate. Were help needed to line up a few doubtful votes for the Gavagan measure, this latest Georgia affair, on top of the dual lynching in Alabama a few weeks ago, should prove ample.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
May 27, 1937

THE BAINBRIDGE LYNCHING

The people of Bainbridge are shamed in the same manner as was one of her sister cities some years ago. The body of a negro was dragged through the streets and burned. The negro had been slain by officers when trying to escape from them. He had been accused of attacking two women in or near that city. The mob that dragged the dead body through the streets and then burned it may have been actuated with a desire to warn others of what they might expect if that crime was committed but we doubt that this was the sole motive.

There is too much of passion in such an affair, too much of unreasoning excitement that often eggs those who ordinarily might not be tempted to take any part to commit such acts. They are never proud of it afterward. It will never be a credit to that county or to ours to have been some means adopted to prevent it—imagine dragging a dead body through the streets to be seen by women and children, even though the crime that aroused such fury was against them and the resentment was in their behalf as a group.

It has happened and only the Good Lord knows why it was done. We never have understood that form of lust, although we might feel so mentally unbalanced if the crime was committed against one of ours, rather than in an abstract sense. In the anti-lynching law recently passed in the congress there is no provision for punishment of such a crime although we think that a law to fine all who participated in that

There is too much of passion in such an affair, that when the reputation of drawing qualities of his town was in question and it was to his advantage to make it sound well.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
May 27, 1937

Barbarism At Bainbridge.

Willie Green, twenty-year-old Negro, was arrested near Bainbridge, Georgia, on the charge of killing two white women and was said to have confessed the crime. As officers were taking him handcuffed to jail at Albany in that State he attempted to break open a door of the automobile and escape, and they killed him. So the officers reported.

Thus the young Negro paid in full for his crime, if he was guilty, and it would seem that everybody should have been satisfied. But everybody was not. The body was taken to a Negro funeral home in Bainbridge, but a mob went to the place and took possession of the corpse, tied it behind an automobile, dragged it through the streets and burned it in a baseball park.

"Twice around the main square went a caravan of some fifty automobiles, one of them dragging the body," says a dispatch from Bainbridge. "Then a tour was made of the town's Negro district. It ended at the ball park, where a section of fence was used to make a pyre whose flames leaped twenty feet high around the body. 'There is not enough left of it to burn,' a reporter on the scene declared."

"I'm mighty sorry to see this happen," Sheriff Catledge said when informed of the incident, but he made no statement as to plans for a possible investigation of the violence. Since perhaps the most serious charge that would be brought against the mobsters would be that of disorderly conduct, the city authorities may make an investigation and collect a few fines for the city coffers. The mob did not kill the Negro. Possibly resentful because they had been deprived of an opportunity to pull off an old-fashioned lynching-bee, the savages who composed the mob dragged the dead body around the town until there seems to have been little left of it, and then burned that little.

We protest against this outrage, not so much because of what was done to the young Negro who confessed the murder and mutilation of two white women, but because it was done by white men who are supposed to be civilized and to live in a civilized land. Another sickening exhibition of barbarism has been staged, and the shame and the disgrace are Georgia's and the South's.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
May 25, 1937

Mob Rule Assaulted.

A recent lynching in Henry county, Alabama, was followed by a grand jury investigation which resulted in recommendation by the inquisitorial body that the case be dropped. It was alleged, however, that the sheriff of Henry county had been negligent in that he failed to protect a prisoner against a mob.

The grand jury's decision appeared to be just another case of white-washing by local officials. Attorney General Carmichael took issue with the jury, and after personal investigation of the crime he says he is convinced "beyond doubt" that the sheriff should be ousted. Meanwhile, Alabama's governor, Bibb Graves, vigorously declares he intends to "put an end to lynching in this state." Matching action to word, he has instructed the state's attorney general to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff.

It is not often that a governor and an attorney general go over the heads of grand jurymen. In attacking the usual excuse for resort to lynching—namely, to protect womanhood — Governor Graves says such excuse is "pure poppycock," for it would not take a petit jury "more than 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict" for that character of crime.

In further striking out against mob crime the governor says—and it is the truth—that "only lawless hoodlums and enemies of government" participate in lynchings. The courageous words and the forthright action of the governor and the attorney general of Alabama afford convincing proof that the south has been awakened and is stirred over the shame, disgrace and discredit lynch law invariably brings.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
May 26, 1937

More Mob Violence

The South seems to be making up for lost time as regards lynching. Only a short time back the country was stunned by the brutal demonstration of mob law in Mississippi in which two negroes were tortured and burned. Now Georgia has her share of spotlight in this infamy. A negro man who is reported to have confessed to killing and mutilating two white women was shot and killed while deputies were in the act of taking him to jail. Subsequently an infuriated mob stormed the undertakers' shop where the body lay seized it and carried it to a baseball park, where it was destroyed by fire.

There was extreme provocation of course, but nothing that would justify such exhibitions of mob violence. Lynching seems to have its fits and starts in this section. Of course mob violence is not confined to the South, but every time such barbaric assaults are made upon law and constituted authorities it gives the South-baiters of other sections just one more peg upon which to hang their resounding harps of prejudice and enmity.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
June 24, 1937

THE CAUSE OF LYNCHING

Last week a man was convicted and sentenced to one year in prison for causing the death of his wife. He had made her pull a plow and had performed an illegal operation on her, so it was charged. And he got one year in prison on a charge of manslaughter, then admitted to bond and probably a new trial.

And, then people will ask why mobs go crazy and lynch people. Until the courts function much more efficiently than they do now we will have lynchings regardless of whether theiniquitous anti-lynching bill is made a law by the national congress.

We do not cry for the blood of this man who abused his wife. He may have been innocent, but if he was nt the cause of his wife's death, he should have been given his freedom. If he was he should have been more severely punished.

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
July 5, 1937

Sheriff vs. Mob.

We would like to know more about that Texas sheriff, Jess Sweeten, who unstrapped his guns before he went out to tell a gathering mob that he was going to protect his prisoner as the law demanded.

The best guess is that he is one of those grey-eyed men with a reputation for meaning what he says, like the lone Texas Ranger who was sent to a small town to handle another riotous gathering. This apocryphal person, when a citizen expressed surprise that only one officer has been sent to deal with the situation, is credited with replying: "Well, there's only one mob." Reports have it that he did his job well.

Sheriff Sweeten seems to have thought too much of his reputation to submit to being "surprised" by about a hundred men, some of them hardened workers from the east Texas oil fields. One of his deputies had been seized and deprived of his shooting irons, but within the jail there were five more deputies in addition to their chief.

When he faced the mobsters, unarmed, he indulged in no fancy oratory. "Boys," he said, "it's my business to protect my prisoner. I don't want any trouble, but I'm going to protect him in case there is any."

The men out front looked the speaker over for a minute, and then decided that it would be unhealthy to proceed further. Nobody made a threatening gesture and the sheriff went back inside to report that all was well. There would be no lynching in Athens, Texas, where the incident occurred.

With a few more sheriffs like Jess Sweeten lynch law would lose a good deal of its popularity in the South and the heated discussion over a federal law to curb the evil would hardly be necessary.

Lynchings- 1937
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Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 27, 1937

'LYNCHING' THE DEAD.

In the light of the crime which occurred at Bainbridge, Georgia, Monday, how pale by comparison seem stories of war atrocities. The most insidious propaganda could not possibly make more horrible than it actually was the act of a mob of white men which took from a mortuary the body of a Negro who had been shot and killed, and, after dragging it through the streets of the city behind a procession of automobiles, took it to a Negro baseball park, tore down part of the fence with which to make a pyre, and then burned the body. If one did not know such a thing had taken place, it would be impossible to believe it had happened. Yet it did happen, not in the midst of war, not in darkest Africa, but in a Southern community whose people boast they are descendants of an authentic aristocracy.

The Negro who was shot and killed and his body burned was the confessed slayer of two white women, one of whom he had attacked. The Negro was slain, according to Sheriff W. J. Catledge, when he suddenly wrenched open the door of a police automobile with his handcuffed hands and fled toward the woods. The Sheriff's report that the automobile was being driven at a speed of thirty-five miles an hour at the time seems worthy of investigation. A person who jumps from a car going that fast is scarcely able to flee. Since the Negro was handcuffed and presumably unarmed, it seems strange that three Deputies should have found it necessary to shoot the man dead. Perhaps if his legs had been shackled, he might have escaped. In any event, the Negro was killed, a fact which wiped clean the law's claim upon him.

The members of the mob which dragged the Negro's body through the streets and then burned it achieved nothing but disgrace for themselves and humiliation for their countrymen. There will be joy in Nazi Germany when the news is received that in the American Democracy which boasts of its freedom and its intellectual superiority over regimented peoples, a mob has seized and burned the body of a Negro. How must it seem to millions of people in our own country when these bestial crimes are permitted to occur with stereotyped expressions of regret in official quarters and nothing ever done about them?

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 1, 1937

The mistaken impression that lynchers always escape unpunished in the south is an encouragement both to lynching and to those who believe federal law the only way to prevent the crime. In the 30-year period ending in 1930, the records show that some 70 lynchers were caught and given prison sentences. In Georgia, in 1930, for example, two lynchers were sentenced to imprisonment for life. In the same year Texas imposed prison terms on two. And in Alabama, during the governorship of Thomas E. Kilby (1919-23) some 34 lynchers were caught and punished.

In other words, mob murderers can be punished and have been punished in the south. Not enough of them and not severely enough, it is true, but it seems important that all parties concerned should know the facts.

Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
June 1, 1937

WITH OTHER EDITORS

HUMANITY AT ITS WORST
(Dothan, Ala. Eagle)

Spanish Loyalists, inflamed by intense hatred of the church, dug the bodies of long-buried priests and nuns from their graves and defiled and burned them.

The Bainbridge mob, burning with a hatred equally white hot, removed the body of a negro rapist and murderer from a morgue, drug it behind an automobile around the square and, followed by hundreds of men, women and children, burned it in a baseball park.

The Negro was already dead—"shot while attempting to escape," said the officers. (The car was moving 50 miles an hour, but the Negro "hit the ground running," they said.) So there was no point in staging the ghastly spectacle. But apparently the "best thought" in Bainbridge approved.

Fundamentally, the Bainbridge mob was the same as the Spaniards. Their reaction to hate was identical. And both were stupid.

But the writer simply cannot understand the man and woman who eagerly holds their child high in their arms that it might have a better view of such gruesome degeneracy of "civilized" people.

Mankind, it is proved again, will do anything through hatred.

Roxboro, N. C. Courier
June 12, 1937

FEDERAL REGIMENTATION

TWO statements in a recent report of the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynch bill are enough to make the blood of any ardent supporter of states rights,, if there are any such left in these days of Federal regimentation ,boil in righteous wrath.

The first is that, in the event the bill, which has been given a favorable report from a senate judiciary subcommittee, is passed by the national congress, it would use federal power to force state prosecution of lynchers. Now, lynching is a terrible crime. It brings out all the lust and animalism that is in civilized humans. It is bad for the morale of the community, for if a lynching of a member of one race occurs at the hands of another race, it is likely to incite race prejudice and may possibly lead to a race war. Lynchings are not to be condoned in any civilized and Christian community.

But that is no reason why the federal government should take a hand and "force" state prosecution. It's no business of Uncle Sam's. It's up to the local officers to see that the guilty persons are prosecuted. We grant that in the past there have been lynchings for which no one has ever been punished, but in the majority of cases we venture to say that this has been due to the slyness of the lynching party and not due to a lack of vigilance and courage on the part of the law officers.

The bill would seem to place the burden of responsibility for the lynching upon recognized police officers in a county or municipality, when they are very probably in no way responsible for the outrage. It is their duty to round up the criminals and turn them over to the prosecuting officers for conviction or acquittal, dependent on the strength of the evidence. It is not within the pale of federal jurisdiction to step in and tell county and state officers what to do.

The other paragraph that is enough to make a states right adherent see red is this: "A provision of the bill . . . would make counties in which lynchings occurred liable for civil damages to victims or their legal representatives. Civil damage could be sought in federal district court."

Why, we would like to know, should a county be liable for the action of a few people who might or might not be its citizens? Lynching parties are always composed of a few hot-headed people who act without thinking, spurred on by arosed feeling of the moment. In the county, then, to be indicted and all its tax-paying citizens to be made responsible for these people's actions? There doesn't seem any grounds for justification of such legislation.

Humanitarian the bill probably is, but we have had entirely too much "forcing" by federal power to tolerate a continued encroachment on jurisdiction that properly belongs to local officers, and there certainly appears to be no real reason to make counties responsible for acts with which they have had nothing to do.

"FUTILE" IS THE WORD.

The Daily News, for its part confesses satisfaction over the failure of southern oratory to prevent favorable action by the house of representatives upon federal anti-lynching legislation, say the southern honorables between snoozes over the passing of state's rights, is futile.

But their outbursts, for all the progress which the southern states have obviously made in the reduction of mobbery, are drowned by the moans, the shrieks, the piteous appeals and the protestations of innocence from victims who continue to be done to death with pistol, with shotgun, with faggot and with blow-torch.

State's rights carry commensurate responsibilities, and so long as those responsibilities are not met corollary rights and privileges are nullified. Is it, has it ever been, a state's right to allow a helpless prisoner to be snatched from the law, dragged from the temple of justice, condemned by shouting mobsters and impaled upon the nearest tree?

Futility is the keyword around which we would place our arguments for federal anti-lynching legislation. Lynchings may occur with less frequency. But so long as a single instance does occur and local authorities fail to apprehend and convict the perpetrators the responsibility for retributive justice, for guarantee of the right of due process and trial by law, reverts to higher and more powerful agencies of government. Southern honorables failed to narrate how many mobsters had ever been identified, tried and convicted in their or anybody else's bailiwick. One of the North Carolina representatives referred to what was presumably the Needleman case and the effective manner in which its perpetrators were punished. All possible glory to Solicitor Gilliam and Judge Sinclair who cleaned up in Martin county; but that example hardly contained all the factors which enter into a lynching and its denouement. The victim of mobbery was not a negro and he lived to aid in the prosecution. Comment upon general lynchings as they occurred subsequently in Edgecombe, Pender and Franklin counties was conspicuously missing.

Whether the Gavagan act, if approved by the senate, will accomplish its purpose, the Daily News frankly does not know. It can be no more futile than present state and local indifference. Our greatest hope of results comes not from imposition of penalties upon counties in which lynchings occur or upon officers who allow prisoners to be taken from them but from the possibility of the ferreting out of mob members by Uncle Sam's sleuths and their subsequent imprisonment for their atrocity. Once the idea obtains that the federal government means business, as the state governments do not, prospective lynchers will do more sober thinking than the moments preceding a rope and faggot party had ever been thought capable of producing.

Mobile, Ala., Press
June 8, 1937

Heavy Must Lie the Mobster's Heart

(Birmingham News)

The great danger that always exists when an impassioned mob assumes to administer what it may think is justice is exemplified in this charge at Montgomery that the Henry County mob which took a prisoner from jail and lynched him had the wrong negro.

One of the great reasons why lynchings are wrong is that they deny the accused the right of a fair chance to prove his innocence. And always when a mob acts, there is the possibility that the wrong man becomes the victim of the crowd's irrational anger.

Any normal-thinking man after participating in a lynching must have twinges of conscience. He has done an illegal thing. He has joined in an act that strikes at the roots of justice. He has yielded to passion in a case where, because a life was at stake, reason should prevail if it ever prevails anywhere.

But on top of this remorse rests also the ever-present fear that the mob acting in haste and in heat has lynched the wrong person. The mobster can never get away from that fear. He can never get rid of the possibility that he has killed in error. A juror sitting in a capital case may have that feeling, but never in the degree that a mob-killer has.

Of course this charge at Montgomery should be investigated. For if it could be proved that the mob was mistaken, then lynching would have received a worse blow than it could from either the impeachment of Sheriff Corbitt or the conviction of some of the mob members.

HIGHLIGHTS in the WEEK'S NEWS

Florence, Ala., Herald
June 18, 1937

By HAROLD S. MAY

It is seldom that the citizens of the Muscle Shoals district are privileged to hear such a distinguished scientist as Dr. George Washington Carver, of Tuskegee Institute, who addressed a capacity audience at the Sheffield High school auditorium Tuesday night, under the auspices of the Wilson Dam chapter of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Carver, the world's greatest negro scientist, not only demonstrated the wonderful work he has done with the lowly Alabama peanut, but propounded a number of great truths that struck a responsive cord in the minds of his interested audience. Those who failed to avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing this brilliant scientist have suffered a distinct loss.

Charlotte, N. C., News
June 12, 1937

One of Five Talents

(New York Times)

"And to one he gave five talents." He was a Negro boy born in Missouri, the son of slave parents (and once traded for a horse), who as a man has made so great a contribution to his country that, as reported in Thursday's Times, "Southern notables of two races" paid honor to his genius by having a bronze bust made of him. George Washington Carver (for that was the name that he grew into), who had received the five talents, spent years in the study of the vegetable world about him and "made other five talents" not for himself, however, but for his world neighbors. He lived so close to the earth and its trees and plants and insect life that he got at first hand what they had to tell others in books. He ever learned to draw and paint objects in nature out of that intimate acquaintance—and so well that he won recognition here and in Europe as an artist.

But his five talents were spent mainly in getting the vegetable kingdom to make unheard-of additions to what it was giving mankind. He got the peanut to produce 300 useful products and encouraged the sweet potato to yield more than 100 products of varying human values. He has turned down salaries for himself mounting to six figures, it is said, and has been content to get along with one that could perhaps not get into the lowest income tax brackets. Best of all, he has made his talents count largely in Tuskegee's gifts to the Negro race.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
July 7, 1937

MOBS IN NORTH AND SOUTH

THE Tuskegee Institute issues a report upon lynchings during the past six months, showing that there were only four during the half-year, one each in Georgia and Alabama and two in Mississippi. This is two less than for the previous six months.

This decrease is most gratifying and it is unfortunate that a similar decrease in lynching in portions of the country outside of the South, is not revealed. Instead of lynch law decreasing elsewhere, however, it has increased at an almost unprecedented rate, especially in the industrial regions of the north and central west.

It may clarify understanding upon this subject to give the official definition of "lynch", this definition being "to inflict punishment upon or kill without the forms of law, as by mob or any unauthorized persons."

Thus while there have been but four lynchings recorded in the South during the past six months there have been literally hundreds in such places as Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Johnstown, Warren and other industrial centers. Yet in the face of this transparent fact, the pending anti-lynch bill in congress specifically exempts the lynchers of the North from its provisions and includes only those of the South.

Mob law is deplorable regardless of where it breaks out but it is even more deplorable when one form of mob law is condoned or regarded lightly while another form is dealt with in vigorous and proper manner. The South is alert to the perils of mob violence and it is high time that the North became equally alert, for mob violence in that quarter is even worse than in the South because it constitutes a sinister attack upon government itself.

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Discussion

White Press, Southern.

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PARIS (KY) BOURBON NEWS
MAR. 5, 1937 M9

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

For a number of years Tuskegee Institute has been tabulating the returns of lynching and it is pleasing to observe that President F. D. Patterson reports that there has been a decline in mob action every decade since 1887.

Dr. Patterson gives three reasons for the decline and they are, we believe, sound observations. The first is the disappearance of frontier characteristics in the South; the breaking down of isolation in the South through the development of rural free delivery, increased communication facilities; paved roads and radio; the third, "increased agitation within the South against lynching."

While the Tuskegee figures have always reflected a view that lynching was peculiarly a Southern phenomena it is surprising that the Negro does not give any credit to activity of people in other sections who are usually quick to condemn something happening away from home. He even goes so far as to term lynching a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

ELIZABETHTOWN KY. ENTERPRISE
MAR. 2, 1937 M9

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DANVILLE, KY., MESSENGER
MAR. 3, 1937 M10

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RUSSELLVILLE, KY., NEWS-DEMOCRAT
MAR. 4, 1937 M9

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Birmingham, Ala. News
January 31, 1937

Pacific Coast Voters Much Opposed

It is interesting to note that in today's survey the opposition to a federal anti-lynching law is strongest not in the South, but on the Pacific Coast. There 41% of the voters reached are against federal action, as compared to a national average of only 30%. There may be several explanations for this. Possibly one is that when the murderers of Brooke Hart were lynched in California a few years ago, no less a personage than California's governor, James Rolph, said publicly that at times lynching was a deserved punishment.

Furthermore, today's survey was being conducted at the time the body of Charles Mattson was found near Everett, Wash. The ghastliness of this crime is said to have caused many Pacific Coast citizens to declare privately that lynching would be an appropriate punishment for the murderer.

VICTORIA, TEX., ADVOCATE
MAR. 2, 1937 M11

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PAULS VALLEY OKLA. DEMOCRAT
MAR. 4, 1937 M12

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the West and in the South.

WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?

In the wake of Troy's bank robbery it was announced that federal authorities had been notified and that G-Men were expected to be assigned to the case.

Which, the Daily News conceives, is as it should be. The situation is covered by federal legislation and, in no other connection, there is deposit insurance which brings banks generally under Washington's eye and protection.

The point we have in mind is thus emphasized by the acceptability of the arrangement. Federal intervention in the person of G-men to assist in tracking down the offenders is requested and presumed. Not a single cheep did we hear while this Washington authority was being extended or in its subsequent application, as in the Troy robbery, anent state's rights and their abrogation or infringement by an over-stepping federal government. When a person is kidnaped, when a bank is robbed, Washington's assistance is fine and dandy; but if some hapless victim is seized by a mob and done to death, why, by the hallowed name of state's rights and all that is politically holy, Uncle Sam's sleuths must play hands off absolutely.

And if that incongruity makes either sense or justice, you can strike us pink.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
March 4, 1937

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Will you please give space in your paper to the following article, which was written especially for the Dothan Eagle.)

The Sunday issue of your paper carried a reply to a certain citizen of Abbeville, who endorsed the recent lynching in Henry County. Your Comment was that he doubtless reflected the sentiment of the community. Please allow me to say he possibly represents a large segment of public sentiment here, but does in no manner speak for everyone.

The day following this unfortunate occurance the writer prepared an article for the county paper, conecerning it; but at the advice of a friend its publication was witheld till all the facts were in". Such advice was sound and my acceptance of it now enables me to write more intelligently and perhaps less dispassionately. All the facts are evidently in now in as much as those responsible for settling the matter and seem to regard it as a closed issue.

Two pertinent facts that have trickled out the extreme secrecy that has veiled the case are these: Nine members of the lynching party have been positively identified by the sheriff of the county; a jury called for the sole purpose of making a "thorough" investigation reports that it has no indictments to make.

Attitudes towards these facts and their interpretations may vary but is bald aspects remain.

The heiniousness of the negro's crime is appreciated by everyone, and it did not require a lynching to impress the fact on our minds. That swift and sure justice was in order no one doubted and if there had been no other alternative and fair minded person could have endorsed the method used. However, it requires little imagination to feature the fate that would have been the negro' boy's had he come before a jury of white men from this county.

If the Christian's Bible condones such monstrous and primative practices my decades of Bible study have been in a measure abortive. Paul's admonition: "Avenge not yourselves beloved, but give place unto wrath; for it is written vengence belongeth to me, I will recompense, ssyeth the Lord, is not altogether a New Testiment point of view, as will be observed by reading Duet. 32:35.

Nothing short of raw revenge could prompt a group of men to perpetrated such an act. In the humble judgment of the writer, no act can be justified by a Chrristian that does not reflect the spirit of Christ; that Southern chivalry can best be preserved by unimpeachable conduct in the lives of its male citizens and a mental and moral equanimity that can wait for orderly and legal means of justice.

E. E. Johnson, Pastor
Abbeville Bantist Church

Greer, S. C. Citizen
June 3, 1937

FASTER ACTION NEEDED—

A comment on the action taken by some of the citizens of Bainbridge, Georgia, evokes this comment in a recent dispatch from Washington, D. C.:

"Down in Georgia, a prisoner who had confessed assault and double murder was shot while trying to escape. His body was taken from the morgue, dragged around the public square and then burned. On the surface, and perhaps unconditionally, such conduct must be disapproved as an exhibition of childish or primitive rage, yet it is safe to say that the same offense will not be committed in the same locality for some time to come.

"All must turn a face of cold disapproval on lynching or anything that resembles it, but on the other hand one is etitled to speculate as to whether criminal law is not a little too soft, too uncertain and too slow in its operation.

"In the days of the Old West, order was brought out of turbulence, in more than one place, by vigilance committees who tried criminals at eight o'clock in the morning and executed them before sundown.

"Self-appointed judges and hangmen have no place in modern civilization but the success which sometimes has followed their efforts points to the conclusion that, after all, a careful study of their work may yield helpful suggestions to those who think that the rules and regulations governing the punishment of high crimes need a shake-up and revision."

And in this connection it might be noted that it was not until the G-Men let it be known that they would shoot to kill that the wave of kidnapping that was a disgrace to the entire country, came to an end.

Quick action for the guilty is the greatest deterent to crime that has yet been discovered, and always will be as long as there are the thousand and one delays that are thought up by slick criminal lawyers, venal courts, and lenient parole boards.

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New York Takes Scottsboro Boys To Its Heart

'TWAS A GALA DAY when the Scottsboro boys reached New York under the wing of their defense counsel, Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney. In the upper left photo are shown, left to right, all dressed up in their new clothes, Willie Roberson, Olin Montgomery, Leibowitz, Eugene Williams and Andy Wright. Upper right shows a close-up of the boys, in order, Montgomery, Roberson, Wright and Lower, as they peered out of the crowd of 5,000 at Pennsylvania station Monday morning, when the Cincinnati train bearing the boys pulled in. Last shot shows the boys with Leibowitz as the attorney plunges his fist through his straw hat, to express his elation over placing the hatreds and prejudice of Alabama behind him. He told The Amsterdam News he had promised himself to smash his hat the moment he set foot in New York. (Photos by M. & M. Smith and Continental.)

Scottsboro Negro Goes Back To Jail

On petition of Osmond K. Fraenkel of New York, defense attorney, the Supreme Court of Alabama yesterday issued an order suspending sentence of 75 years imprisonment imposed on Heywood Patterson, negro Scottsboro case defendant, following his most recent conviction—pending disposition of another appeal that has been filed on his behalf in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Following issuance of the suspension order, Hamp Draper, head of the State Convict Department, directed that Patterson be transferred from the State Prison Farm at Atmore, to the Jefferson County Jail at Birmingham, to remain there until action on the pending appeal is taken by the nation's highest court.

Patterson was removed from the Jefferson County Jail to Kilby on June 14, shortly after the Alabama Supreme Court had affirmed judgment of the Morgan County Circuit Court, finding the defendant guilty and sentencing him to imprisonment for 75 years. It was Patterson's fourth conviction. The prisoner was transferred from Kilby to the Atmore Farm and assigned to light duties there on Sept. 7, as he had not at that time fully regained his physical strength after recovery from a leg infection

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
September 22, 1937

NEGRO RETURNED TO BIRMINGHAM

Haywood Patterson Transferred Here Pending Appeal

Haywood Patterson, 24, Negro defendant in the "Scottsboro case," was transferred from state prison back to Jefferson County Jail Tuesday afternoon, to be held here pending his appeal of a 75-year penitentiary sentence to U. S. Supreme Court.

Patterson was brought back to Birmingham at the direction of Hamp Draper, chief of the State Convict Department, after the Alabama Supreme Court had granted a stay of execution in the sentence, which was imposed by a Morgan County Jury. The Negro was taken to Kilby Prison last June 14, after the Alabama Supreme Court had affirmed his lower court conviction, but was transferred Sept. 7 to the Atmore Prison Farm.

Clarence Norris, under death sentence for the criminal assault of Victoria Price in the "Scottsboro case," has been held in jail here since his conviction.

Athens, Ala., Democrat
October 28, 1937

SCOTTSBORO CASES ARE OVER

Some of the best news that has been heard in Alabama in a long time came over the radio Monday about noon, when it was announced that the U. S. supreme court had decided not to review the Scottsboro cases. This means the end of this nauseating mess that has made Alabama a byword in many places. It is to be hoped that no rehearing will be granted and such a thing is hardly likely.

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Charlotte, N. C., News
July 16, 1937

Vicious Circle

Once more the interminable Scottsboro case swung around the circle yesterday, and apparently to as little decisive end as ever. Appeal is to be taken on the conviction of the Negro, Clarence Norris, for rape — and since the Supreme Court has already twice overturned the same verdict in his case, it is likely that he will presently have to be tried all over again.

It is time this farce was brought to a close. It is entirely possible that the Negro committed the crime; but it is the presumption of the law that he is innocent until proved guilty, and the eternal disagreement between the Alabama juries, which unquestionably have pretty intense prejudices about the business, and the Supreme Court, which presumably has none, suggests pointedly that, under the law, the court is right. Surely, the evidence is dubious enough in all conscience. The Bates woman, who was one of the two original complaining witnesses, has completely repudiated her story; and a local police officer Wednesday testified of the Price woman that he wouldn't believe her oath on any subject whatever.

We have the uncomfortable feeling that Alabama — or at least the Alabamans who sit on juries — are more concerned with defending the "honor" of Alabama than with dispassionate examination of evidence. It is a sentiment we can understand, in view of the antics of the Communists and the generally idiotic yammering from the North, but it is not one we can sympathize with — and it does the real honor of Alabama a grave disservice.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
July 21, 1937

"Thou canst not say I did it; never shake
Thy gory locks at me."

• • •

Who did this thing to the South? Who made this ugliness, this bitterness, this rotten place in a civilization, this stench in the nostrils of a world, this Scottsboro Case? Some say the lust of black men did it, some the lies of white women, but there are more defendants than these, and more plaintiffs. The ghastly, unending mess is chargeable against both the South and the North, against radicals and reactionaries, against politicians, against juries, against the press, against the bar, against the bench. Sometimes the charge is of pride, of stubbornness, prejudice, hate, ambition, sadism, vanity. Sometimes it is of stupidity, bungling, carelessness, bad psychology, thoughtless sensationalism, unintelligent altruism.

• • •

Who that has had any part in this case on either side or as a neutral can say he did not do it, that he did not contribute something to the elements that have made the compound so foul? To admit the mess and confess a part in it is good for all of us now. It may help us somehow to make an end of a case which has gone so far beyond the gondola car at Paint Rock that the original plaintiffs and defendants are almost forgotten.

• • •

There just simply isn't anything for anybody, good or bad, to gain out of the Scottsboro case any more. It is very well to talk of fundamental principles of right and wrong but when those principles are lost in a thousand extraneous considerations and when both sides are joined in holy deadlock, the only thing for sensible men to do is to close the case out, compromise it to death, postpone the vital issues to some other case where they will be less confused, more resolvable.

• • •

This Summer may go down in history as the one when people in general learned the importance of eating salt to offset perspiration losses. At the same time come rumors of great salt domes in the South where perspiring is heaviest. Isn't nature wonderful!

In this column's experience the most oppressive heat to be found anywhere in the country is that of Washington, D. C. And the most dangerous is that of New York, N. Y. Southern heat is highly uncomfortable but it is more a thing of perspiration than of prostration. Below the Potomac many swelter but few expire. Above the Potomac it is different—and worse. And now that science is telling us to take salt here in lieu of lost perspiration, it may be that the heat won't even make Southerners lazy any more.

• • •

Is there a back-to-the-home movement for women, and are American women holding out against it more successfully than European ones? Miss Gordon Holmes, managing director of the National Securities Corporation, of London, says so. Unemployment, she reports, has caused a "general slide back" in the status of women abroad and brought about the return of many women to their homes. She thinks American women hold the future of the business woman in their hands, and wants them to do something about it. Particularly she wants them to put more women in public office.

• • •

Since women are the latest-comers to the economic table it may be natural that they should be asked to retire when the table seems to have 13. But against this is the fact that women have proven themselves more capable in certain types of work than men. Against it, too, is the claim that there really aren't too many at the table, that given a proper distribution, the consumption demands of the world are enough to give everybody a job.

• • •

At any rate, the modern American answer to whatever excesses of job-seekers over jobs occur is that elimination shall be on a basis of age, not sex.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 21, 1937

WILL THE CARPETBAGGER RETURN?

We had carpetbaggers back in the late 60's and early 70's in Alabama, and if this court-packing bill goes through, we may have them again—perhaps not quite in the same form, but nevertheless just as vicious.

In his splendid speech before the Senate a few days ago, Senator O'Mahoney of Wyoming called attention to this little-noticed feature of the court bill, which calls for a traveling or carpetbag judiciary. Under the terms of the bill, a chief justice who is dominated by the President could designate a judge from any district in the United States to go into any other district to try a paraticular case.

Samuel Leibowitz is going to the Supreme Court the next time on Judge Callahan's refusal to let the Norris case be removed to the Federal district court for trial. As the decisions of the Supreme Court now stand, Judge Callahan ruled correctly on that, as we understand it, but a new and enlarged court, appointed from northern states and composed of radicals, might very conceivably overturn the law and hold with Leibowitz that the cases must be tried in Federal court. Then, under the court bill, if it becomes law, a chief justice could send a judge from the district in Chicago which is now represented in Congress by a Negro to Alabama to try that case.

If this seems far-fetched, me might remember that Attorney General Daugherty, in Harding's administration, tried to pull just such a trick when he and his colleagues "framed" a case on Senator Wheeler. The Harding crowd tried to send a judge from Ohio to Montana to try him, but they did not succeed under the present law.

Of course, the Scottsboro case is only a minor illustration. A greater menace would be that we might have a Federal judge from Chicago deciding on the rights of Negroes to vote in our party primaries and elections. And we must keep in mind that the court bill is permanent legislation—not temporary or emergency legislation. It's full effects might not be felt for five or ten years.

The bill provides for a centralized and bureaucratic judicial system, which alone would be bad enough, but this carpetbag feature, which may well be the first step toward abolishing white supremacy in the South, makes it intolerable to us. — The Tuscaloosa News.

Fayetteville, N. C., Observer
July 20, 1937

SCOTTSBORO CASE.

Talk now is of compromising the aged and in many respects infamous Scottsboro case in which nine or ten negroes have been convicted several times and sentenced to die for criminally assaulting two white women hoboes aboard a freight train in Alabama.

The bi-racial situation in the South has a tendency to place a great social emphasis on assaults and attacks of all kinds between members of the different races, not only to protect the individual but to prevent the creation of incidents likely to cause mass ill-feeling and violence between the white and colored people, who are showing the world that two different races can live harmoniously together.

This emphasis undoubtedly enters into the Scottsboro case and influences it.

We think the average Southern white man is torn between two sentiments in the Scottsboro case.

The first sentiment is to punish to the limit of the law the perpetrators of the attack on the two white women if an honest jury is satisfied of the fact of the attack and the identity of the assailants.

The second sentiment is one of disgust with two women who would invite just the type of assault the Scottsboro prosecutrices allege by putting themselves in a position to be abused by using a form of transportation habitually used by the most vicious and depraved members of both races.

Danville, Va., Bee
July 19, 1937

Decatur Repeats

To those who wonder why the Scottsboro negroes are sentenced to the death penalty with such persistence and relentlessness, trial after retrial, let it be said that the Alabama law which is different to that of most states is chiefly responsible.

The Scottsboro cases long since got out of their true perspective having been made national racial issues during the six and a half years that they have been going the course of the courts with the United States supreme court so far an impassable barrier to the execution of any of them.

Whether at this late day justice can be done we cannot say. One may well question the clarity of accurate human recollection and evidential detail after so long a lapse of time when it is bitterly crossed with extraneous currents. But we cannot get away from the fact that juries in Alabama must take into consideration very heavily the weight of the judge's words in his charge to the jury or what we know in Virginia to be the instructions.

Where the complaining witness is a white woman and where the defendant is a negro the question of consent must be put from the minds of the jury and there is the old Alabama law which provides, in cases of this kind that the unsupported testimony of the woman is all that is needed to pin the crime on the accused. It is not difficult therefore to understand the unfailing course of convictions at a trial in the deep South which places the defendant at such a severe legal disadvantage from the outset—

Stamp Out Injustice Within The States

The supreme court in refusing to set aside the conviction of Patterson, the Scottsboro boy who appealed his 75 year sentence, did not declare that he was proven guilty by the evidence. Its opinion was legalistic, which means that in its judgement the trial was in strict conformity with Alabama law.

To Negroes who have experienced the bias of southern courts, the evidence does not prove Patterson guilty. But the procedure, not the evidence, was at issue before the supreme court. For that reason this decision is no cause for dispair, or for saying that Justice Hugo Black shows his hand already.

Like all states, Alabama has jurisdiction in trials for crimes committed within its borders. The reason why its previous convictions of the Scottsboro boys were not permitted to stand was that the supreme court found that it had not abided by its own rules in trying them. This time it did, and the supreme court's refusal to interfere makes apparent that the only place where the innocence of a Negro accused of crime can be established is also within the state.

Up to now most of us have fancied that somehow the supreme court would save the innocent. This Scottsboro decision bids us start our fight for justice in the state, the place where injustice has its beginning.

It is notorous that the Alabama police, judges and juries who convicted the Scottsboro boys have one standard of official conduct toward whites and an entirely different one for Negroes. Through the repeated reversals in this Scottsboro case, they learned how to give their misuse of power the appearance of fairness. But the bias is there. That is injustice's vulnerable spot, the Achilles heel to be attacked.

The fight will not be easy. It will take time, it will take money. Both trials in the courts and lynchings by mobs prove it will cost even life. But there is no other way and there is nobody else to ask justice for Negroes but themselves. They cannot say they cannot afford to pay the price of the effort. The truth is they cannot afford not to pay it. The material losses suffered in any one year from unequal treatment would finance the fight for justice. The lives lost through unholy industrial practices and unwholesome living conditions imposed, if spent for justice, would win it.

The proof that injustice can be overcome is already established in cases involving housing, education, and freedom of speech. Kentucky, Maryland and Georgia whose attempts to put Negroes on a different basis from other citizens were thwarted, prove that Alabama and the others will be forced to deal justly by all—when the Constitution is the measuring stick for state laws.

The citidel of bias and prejudice must be pulled down to the foundations. Somehow Negroes must drive home the realization that their citizenship has rights as well as responsibilities. They have this same legalistic supreme court to appeal to. Alabama wrangled through a conviction after many failures. Let's take disfranchisement, labor laws, and all else that prejudice has contrived for our hurt, to that court until we resurrect justice. Remembering their defeat at the Alamo, Texans made it their battle cry of victory. Let "Scottsboro" stir Negroes to strive for justice.

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ALABAMA MAY FREE SCOTTSBORO GROUP

Release Already Given to Four Prepares Public to Accept Pardons by Governor

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 29.—If the action of the United States Supreme Court last Monday means that there is no further recourse through the courts for the Scottsboro case Negroes, who were accused of attacking two white women, and that the only hope of relief now is through executive action by the State of Alabama, it is not unreasonable to believe such action possible.

This factor will no doubt influence the Scottsboro Defense Committee and its allied group of Alabamians in deciding upon the nature of the defense campaign which both are determined to maintain.

Without any new evidence, the prosecution has indicated a unanimous change of opinion as to the guilt of four of the defendants. It may be that this was part of a compromise agreement with opposing counsel, but it has weakened the logic of the case against the remaining five in the public mind in Alabama as well as elsewhere.

Public Ready for "Shock"

If the State could have been wrong all these years about four of the Negroes, it could have been wrong about all nine, the general public seems to think. The release of the four Negroes has, in fact, set people of the State to stand the "shock" of freedom for all the rest with the exception of Ozie Powell, who is under an additional charge of a knife attack upon a deputy sheriff in January, 1936.

Another factor tending to make the thought of Executive action in behalf of the remaining defendants more popular here is that the case seems to be now closed to what was called "outside interference" and that if anything is done for the Negroes it will be the work of Alabama itself, not that of "New York attorneys" or radicals.

WILL HE BE FREED?

Associated Press

Heywood Patterson — Alabama might pardon this Scottsboro prisoner.

Still another favorable factor, and one which involves national public opinion rather than local, is the political future which Governor Bibb Graves is believed to have in mind for himself.

Forbidden under Alabama law to succeed himself as Governor, he is thought to desire some Federal post. Though he has been high in the councils of the present National Administration, he has come in for unfavorable national opinion lately by reason of the disclosure that he, as well as Justice Black, rode into office in 1926 with the aid of the Ku Klux Klan. The resurrection of the Klan matter has been thought to have impaired his chances for any Federal preferment, but if he should present himself to the nation as the savior of "the Scottsboro boys," it is quite likely that the Klan incident might be overlooked and that he might go forward to a Federal career.

State Tired of It All

But the most favorable factor of all is Alabama's great weariness with the Scottsboro case and all its works. This profound fatigue was reflected in the scant local attention evident at the last trials a few months ago, and in the surprising lack of protest when four of the defendants were released.

Years ago Governor Slaton of Georgia sacrificed his political career when he freed Leo Frank, but nobody's career is going to be hurt in Alabama now if the remaining Scottsboro Negroes go free.

SCOTTSBORO COMMITTEE ASKS AID

General Public Must Give $5,000 For Further Effort

COFFERS EMPTY

The Scottsboro Defense Committee is making a plea to the general public to contribute to the $5,000 fund "needed at once to assure the successful conduct of the legal defense and to continue the work of this committee in winning further support."

It will be remembered that four of the nine Scottsboro boys have been freed by Alabama courts. The Scottsboro Defense Committee states that "the statement of Alabama officials, made when they released the four boys, proves conclusively the complete innocence of the others."

The critical situation of the remaining five is as follows:

One has been sentenced to death one to 99 years imprisonment, two to 75 years each and the last to 20 years. Heyward Patterson was transferred to the Atmore Prison Camp from the prison hospital at the state penitentiary where he has only recently been operated upon for a chronic bone infection of the left leg. Three of the other boys are still in Kilby Prison, two are just recovering from operations and the third—Ozie Powell—who was shot in the head by a deputy sheriff in January 1936, is literally wasting away mentally and physically.

The Scottsboro Defense Committee states that its treasury is completely exhausted, and anyone willing to aid this cause may send a contribution to the committee at 112 East 19th Street, New York, N. Y. Allan Knight Chalmers is chairman. William Jay Schieffelin is treasurer.

Asheville N. C. Citizen
November 5, 1937

MR. GRAVES ON SCOTTSBORO

Mr. John Temple Graves 2nd, writing from Birmingham, Ala., says in an article published in the New York Times that the release already given to four of the Scottsboro boys has prepared the public there to accept pardons by the governor for the others. Mr. Graves, who knows the psychology of his state, believes that "if the action of the United States Supreme Court means that there is no further recourse through the courts for the Scottsboro case Negroes, and that the only hope of relief now is through Executive action by the State of Alabama, it is not unreasonable to believe such action possible."

According to this authority, the Alabama public has come to feel that if the State could have been wrong all of these years about four of the accused colored boys, it could have been wrong about all nine. It is therefore prepared for the release by pardon of the remaining Negroes —except, of course, of Ozzie Powell, held under an additional charge of attacking a deputy sheriff with a knife.

There are other factors, too, which Mr. Graves feels will count more or less heavily in favor of a more lenient attitude. One is that the case is closed now to "outside interference." Therefore, whatever is done in behalf of the boys after this will be done by the State of Alabama itself and not appear the work of "New York attorneys or radicals."

Moreover Alabama's Governor Bibb Graves is supposed to be harboring ambitions toward some post in the Federal government. During the controversy over Justice Black and the Klan it was, according to Mr. Graves, widely rumored that Gov. Graves, too, had had Klan connections which helped him into office in 1926. Therefore the role of "savior of the Scottsboro boys" would be a valuable aid in living down accusations of race prejudice.

Last of all, but not least powerful reason for expecting governmental clemency, as John Temlpe Graves 2nd sees the affair, is "Alabama's great weariness with the Scottsboro case and all its works." Which attitude, it might be said, is shared by many other Southerners besides those who live where the stars fell. At the risk of growing tedious, however, The Citizen passes on this resume of the Graves article for The New York Times because one instinctively feels that few other people can speak so well for Alabama as the distinguished Southern columnist.

STATE'S LAWYERS WELCHED ON SCOTTSBORO BOYS

11-18-37

NEW YORK. — Revelations that the prosecutors of the Scottsboro boys made an agreement with the defense to free them and then reneged by liberating only four have recently been made by Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

Unsolicited, said Dr. Chalmers, the Alabama attorney general and Tom Knight, lieutenant-governor and special prosecutor, traveled to New York at the State's expense to get Samuel Leibowitz, chief defense counsel, to agree to a deal for freeing the boys.

The reported proposal was that none of the boys would plead guilty to the original charge, but four would plead to a lesser crime in the indictment and not involving any sex offense.

Agreement Reached

If that were done, according to Dr. Chalmers, Alabama agreed to impose sentences less than the time already served in jail by the boys. These would be retroactive and all the boys freed.

An agreement was reputedly arrived at in good faith and was considered legitimate and supported by the newspapers. Following conference with the boys respecting their wishes, the committee expected the State to carry out its part of the bargain, the chairman stated.

Alabama's failure to carry through is history, however, Dr. Chalmers prophesied, "All the boys will be freed by the State of Alabama."

Scottsboro Mother to Lead Delegation

Mass Rally Scheduled Tonight at Abyssinian Church in Harlem to Name Delegates to Push Anti-Lynch Bill in Congress

(Daily Worker Harlem Bureau)

A mass rally to send off a delegation to Washington to urge the special session of Congress to pass the Anti-Lynching Bill and to urge the President to speak on the Constitutional rights of minority peoples will be held tonight at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 132 W. 138th St., at 8 P.M.

The rally is being held under the auspices of the Harlem Scottsboro Defense Committee and the National Negro Congress, with the endorsement of the Baptist Ministers Alliance and the Inter-denominational Ministers Alliance.

It is expected that a delegation of 50 will be selected, among whom will be Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the Scottsboro boys, Roy and Andy; and two of the freed Scottsboro boys, Roy Wright and Olen Montgomery. The balance of the committee will be composed of liberals, ministers, union and working class representatives, and members of leading Harlem civic and fraternal organizations.

TO VISIT PRESIDENT

In the capital the delegation will be joined by representatives of defense and church organizations from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Richmond. It will call upon Congress and urge the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill, and will later call upon the President and urge him to throw his support behind the measure.

The delegation will also urge the President to speak over the radio or otherwise on the constitutional rights of the Negro people and other minority groups; the delegation will also urge the President to connect his talk with the Scottsboro and other such cases, thus showing that the Supreme Court is not the defender of the rights of minority people.

Last week, as the result of a plea made by Mrs. Ada Wright, the National Negro Congress threw the weight of its 2,000 affiliated organizations behind the Scottsboro struggle and is supporting the delegation to Washington.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Parallel with the mass meeting to be held in New York, there will be mass meetings in Washington, Philadelphia, and Richmond under the auspices of the National Negro Congress.

Preceding the mass meeting tonight at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, there will be three open-air meetings in Harlem taking place at 7 P.M. The locations are as follows: 113th St. and Fifth Ave.; 126th St. and Lenox Ave.; and 138th St. and Seventh Ave.

Tonight's mass meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Ada Wright, Roy Wright, and Olen Montgomery. Other speakers will be Dr. Max Yergen, director of the International Committee on African Affairs and acting secretary of the National Negro Congress; Richard B. Moore, vice-president of the International Labor Defense and secretary of the Harlem Scottsboro Committee; the Rev. J. N. Lenister, representative of the Baptist Ministers Alliance.

The Rev. Thomas J. B. Harris, representative of the Inter-denominational Ministers Alliance; Col. William Schieffelin, of the Scottsboro Defense Committee; Dr. P. M. H. Savory, of the United Aid for Peoples of African Descent; Frank R. Crosswaith, chairman of the Negro Labor Committee; the Rev. D. N. Licorish, of the New York Council of the National Negro Congress; and Atty. Thurgood Marshall, of

...the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People.

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Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
December 22, 1937

Another Scottsboro Attack

Those who thought that the Scottsboro case was "settled" with the freeing of those four negroes last summer have got a little to learn, if we are to judge by the latest scurrilous attack upon this state, its courts and its people in the form of a booklet issued by the "Hollywood Scottsboro Committee."

This attack, coming from the pen of Guy Endore, sets a new high mark in the civilization of Alabama, and it announces boldly that the Scottsboro case will not be finished until the "last one of the nine" is released from those "Alabama dungeons." We presume that Mr. Endore looks upon his California institutions of incarceration as "model prisons" but Kilby, one of the finest penitentiaries in America, is a "dungeon" just because it happens to be in Alabama. At least that's the tenor of the whole booklet.

Mr. Endore goes at great lengths to prove that the nine negroes involved in the Scottsboro case did not assault those two white women—predicating his case on the theory that the law of averages wouldn't permit nine such negroes, all of them willing to attack a white woman, to be found anywhere! We do thank Mr. Endore, however, for at least an attempt to prove that the women were attacked; most of those who have vented their spleen against Alabama didn't bother about that little item—they merely asked, with eyebrows raised, "What if they did attack them?"

Endore's effort, in brief, is little more than a left-wing blast for the purpose of stirring up political troubles in the South and, even more, for the purpose of making political profit with the negroes elsewhere in this country. For instance, Endore rails against the "Southern Tories" as those who have persecuted the Scottsboro negroes, and he would have us believe that if it were not for those "Tories" we would have had no Scottsboro case. He wishes to convey to his readers the idea that the mill workers, the farmers and all those who are not "anti-New Dealers" have never been interested in prosecuting those negroes; that the prosecution has been led and demanded by the remnants of the "plantation aristocracy."

From which we gather that Mr. Endore has got a lot to learn about the Scottsboro case, the political aspects of the South, and the people of this section in general. Any fool in the South could have told him that the strongest sentiment for a halt to the Scottsboro prosecution could have been found among that element which sympathizes with the so-called "economic royalists." There are so few "economic royalists" themselves in Alabama that they aren't worth considering. Those of the erstwhile "planter" class were the ones who spoke out boldly and frequently against the prosecution of the Scottsboro negroes. The mill workers, the small farmers and the average white man in general demanded that those negroes be prosecuted, and they were the most angered when almost half of them went free.

Mr. Endore also reaches the amazing conclusion that, "despite the poisonous mass of lies that has been permitted to invade our textbooks," the Reconstruction Era was the most enlightened that the South has ever seen. "It can be asserted with accuracy that the South never enjoyed such progressive and intelligent administration as under the Black Parliaments," he said of the legislatures which, in Alabama and elsewhere, were composed of ignorant blacks, renegade whites and adventurers from the East, many of whom could neither read nor write. They were the men who looted the treasury, and made a drunken carnival out of the state capitol, and tossed the white Democrats out of offices to which they were duly elected, and placed upon our benches of justice illiterate fools who had never seen a law book.

As a political document for left-wing use among the negroes of Northern cities, Mr. Endore's work may prove of value, but as an impartial investigation of an important case, or as a social study, it doesn't even merit the wastebasket. He won a certain amount of fame as— shall we say?—a "sexologist" when he delved into the amours of one Casanova de Seingalt, a Venetian who had a way with the women. We suggest that Mr. Endore continue his research into the life and loves of Casanova—and leave those nine negro rapists to hands which will not be so blindly sympathetic.—Tuscaloosa News.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 20, 1937

Another Scottsboro Attack

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SCOTTSBORO CASE HELD NEAR AN END

Death of Knight, Prosecutor, Is Expected to Aid Move for a Compromise

POLITICS NOW NO FACTOR

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 21.—The death in Montgomery this week of 39-year-old Thomas E. Knight Jr., Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, who has been prosecutor in each of the Scottsboro trials, may have an important bearing upon the notorious case. In a situation shot through from the beginning with prejudices and interfering emotions, Mr. Knight had become a target for something of the same bitterness from sympathizers with the defendants as has been directed at Samuel Leibowitz, chief defense counsel, by friends of the prosecution.

Professionally able and well matched as the two had proved themselves, it was felt that their association with the case any longer was a factor against hope of settlement or fair trial.

An Altered Situation

Now that death has withdrawn Mr. Knight and that Mr. Leibowitz is entrusting much of the defense to an Alabama attorney, Clarence L. Watts of Huntsville, there is promise of an end to the six-year-old case.

However much of a bitter-ender the late Lieutenant Governor may have been about the case at first, he was known to have changed his mind in recent months and to feel that the best possible end to the case for every one would be a sentence of imprisonment, with the years already served counted out of the term.

Otherwise, as he saw it, there could be no end to the round of convictions and appeals.

Although a compromise of this sort would not serve the principles or prejudices for which both sides have fought, it would mean for one side the early freedom of the defendants and for the other elimination of an expensive trial from Alabama.

More and more now there is talk here of such a compromise. The sentiment of the Alabama Bar Association, although not officially expressed, is believed to be in this direction, as is that of the Alabama Scottsboro Committee, an organization of fifty or more prominent citizens, devoted originally to obtaining what was termed "an unencumbered trial."

People Weary of Case

Dr. Henry M. Edmunds of Birmingham, who is chairman of the committee, and Forney Johnston, well known Birmingham attorney, who has been active on the committee, are especially persuaded that some such compromise is the only solution.

The people of Alabama are weary of the Scottsboro case to the point of a very genuine apathy now toward the disposition of it. More than anything else, they want an end to it. It is of no political value to anybody any more and in that fact there is much promise.

Patterson Case Is Up Today In Supreme Court

One Of Scottsboro Nine Wants 75-Year Term Set Aside

Heywood Patterson, negro defendant in the "Scottsboro case," will attempt today to have the Alabama Supreme Court set aside a 75-year-sentence imposed a year ago on a criminal assault conviction.

Patterson's case comes up for arguments on appeal before the State justices. Both Attorney General A. A. Carmichael and Clarence L. Watts, associate defense counsel, pronounced their sides "ready."

Thrice Patterson has escaped death sentences through judicial reversal, two condemnations being set aside by the U. S. Supreme Court and one by a trial judge. The Alabama court refused to intervene in either case taken to the U. S. justices.

Patterson and eight other negroes are accused of assaulting Mrs. Virginia Price and Ruby Bates, two white women, aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., six years ago last March 25.

The cases have dragged through one court after another, both the State and defense waging bitter legal encounters at many turns.

A resumption of trials, other than for Patterson, has been set for June 6 in Morgan County Circuit Court at Decatur, where the case was taken on a change of venue from Jackson County.

Supreme Court records available last night showed Patterson's counsel possibly would base appeal arguments on two major grounds:

1—That Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan erred in permitting admission of certain State evidence and in refusing to accept some testimony tendered by the defense.

2—That Judge Callahan erred in refusing to transfer the trials to U. S. district courts on a defense plea that Alabama laws permitted only one change of venue and a fair trial could not be had in Morgan County.

Many other points were raised, but lawyers termed most of them as "technical in nature, some of which already have been settled in the courts."

The Supreme Court meets at 10 a.m. but there was no indication when the "Scottsboro case" would be reached. It had been continued three times previously, twice on defense requests.

Talk of "compromise" in the eight remaining cases, which developed at several points Tuesday, subsided somewhat yesterday.

Atty. Gen. Carmichael denied the State had entered a "compromise agreement" and said he would be "ready for appeal arguments today and for trials in July. Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, said in New York he wanted a "showdown" compromise, and Dr. Allan Chalmers, chairman of a defense committee, asserted there had been no efforts to compromise the case.

New Trial Set For 8 Negroes In Attack Case

Scottsboro Fight Starts Anew At Decatur On July 6; Ninth Appeals

DECATUR, ALA., May 25—(AP)—Another revival of an old court drama involving alleged assault was heralded today as Judge W. W. Callahan set July 6 for resumption of trials in the "Scottsboro" case.

Nine negroes are accused of a mass attack of two white girls.

The call for new trials in Morgan County circuit court, in mid Summer overshadowed quiet efforts underway for months for an agreement for expeditious disposal of the six-year-old cases without further trials.

Agreement Talked

One agreement proposal, in discussion by members of the Alabama Bar and other prominent persons, was that the three youngest of the nine negroes be discharged, with the others pleading guilty to assault not involving a sex crime, the sentences to be agreed upon.

In New York, Samuel Leibowitz, Chief defense counsel, called for a "show down" compromise on the fate of the negroes, but Alabama sources indicated hopes for an agreement had faded.

Attorney General A. A. Carmichael, who will have charge of the prosecution, declared in Montgomery "the State will be ready." He has denied rumors of a pending out-of-court settlement.

While nine negroes are accused of the attacks, only eight were ordered brought here for arraignment. The ninth, Heywood Patterson is under sentence of 75 years imprisonment, imposed after his fourth conviction here in January, 1936.

Changed To Decatur

The trials were brought here under change of venue from Scottsboro.

Judge Callahan called a special term of court for the new trials. There was no indication which of the eight defendants would be tried first although Clarence Norris followed Patterson in previous hearings, and had been named as the next defendant when the trials were adjourned 16 months ago.

The negroes were arrested March 25, 1931 at Paint Rock, Ala., and accused of attacking Ruby Bates and Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a freight train.

Supreme Court Kills Verdict

Original convictions, carrying death sentences for seven defendants, were set aside by the United States Supreme Court on the ground the negroes were without benefit of adequate counsel.

Transferred to Decatur, Patterson was sentenced to death at a new trial but the judge set the verdict aside as not being justified by the evidence. Ruby Bates appeared here and repudiated her story of the attack.

With Mrs. Price as complaining witness, Patterson and Norris again were tried and sentenced to death. The United States Supreme Court a second time set aside the sentences, holding negroes had been "systematically excluded" from juries which indicted and convicted them.

Led To New Jury Laws

The decision led to new jury laws for Alabama, and for other Southern States. The negroes were reindicted by a grand jury which included a negro and the names of negroes were placed in jury boxes throughout the State.

Patterson's fourth conviction was appealed to the State Supreme Court. Arguments on the appeal have been set for Thursday in Montgomery.

The 1935 Alabama legislature appropriated $35,000 to reimburse Jackson County for costs in the case. No estimate of probable costs of new trials was available.

Patterson Asks High Court To Void Sentence

Counsel For Scottsboro Negro Claims Trial Court Erred

On briefs and oral arguments by opposing counsel, the Alabama Supreme Court took under consideration yesterday the third appeal from a judgment of conviction that has been made to that body by Heywood Patterson, one of the eight negro Scottsboro Case defendants. Patterson has been convicted 4 times and twice sentenced to death. The third verdict of conviction was set aside by the trial judge. After affirmance by the State Supreme Court the first and second judgments of convictions were reversed by the Supreme Court of the United States. The pending appeal is from the fourth conviction and sentenced to a prison term of 75 years.

For the State the oral argument yesterday was by Assistant Atty. Gen. T. S. Lawson. Clarence L. Watts of Huntsville argued the case for the defense. He was first to address the court. The trial judge, he maintained, committed reversible error in a variety of instance, and his conduct on the bench constituted denial to the defendant of constitutional rights. He insisted also that rulings by Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan who presided at the trial, in limiting the extent of cross examination, and excluding testimony and other evidence sought to be introduced by the defense in various instances were erroneous.

Error Claimed

It was argued by defense counsel, for instance, that the trial court erred in limiting the presenting in detail of evidence attempting to show conflict between physical facts as to the length of the train aboard which the criminal assault of two white women with which Patterson and his co-defendants are charged, is alleged to have taken place—and the point at which the two women claimed to have gotten off the train after the assault was committed.

The trial judge was in error, it was insisted, in excluding evidence offered by the defense seeking to show immoral conduct by one of the two women alleged to have been attacked prior to the assault charged aboard the train. A number of instances of alleged improper remarks and comment by Judge Callahan from the bench, were cited by the defense counsel. It was error by the Circuit Judge, he argued, to permit reading into the record of the Patterson case, testimony by Dr. R. R. Bridges, in the companion case of Clarence Norris, as to examination of the two women following the alleged assault; the services of Dr. Bridges as a witness not being available at Patterson's trial, on account of illness.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Lawson, in his argument, declared that in raising the question of previous misconduct by one of the women attacked, defense attorneys had referred to the physician's testimony in the Norris case, only in part, and that Judge Callahan had properly ruled that all of this testimony would be placed in the Patterson record, or none at all. Furthermore, Mr. Lawson declared, this testimony was not relevant, and what the woman's conduct was prior to the attack had nothing whatever to do with the attack itself, nor any bearing on it.

As to the ruling out by Judge Callahan of certain questions by defense attorneys on cross examination, regarding testimony by the same witnesses in the Norris case, Mr. Lawson declared the testimony sought to be adduced was not relevant to the Patterson case, and was inadmissible. Moreover, he said, what the defense was attempting to establish by the testimony ruled out, had already been clearly indicated otherwise by counsel. Testimony admitted in comparison of physical facts with testimony of the two women, was ample, he said, and its presentation in further detail was unnecessary.

State's Contention

With regard to alleged improper and prejudicial conduct and comment by the Circuit Judge during the trial, Mr. Lawson said that while Judge Callahan might, at times, have appeared irritable or impatient, such irritability and impatience was but a human and natural accompaniment of a long-drawn-out and tedious proceeding, and certainly could not be construed as being prejudicial in any way to the defendant. Other points stressed by Mr. Watts were not commented upon specificially by Mr. Lawson who was associated with the late Lieut.-Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., in prosecution of the Scottsboro Cases, the Assistant Attorney General stating they had already been presented in previous appeals, and ruled on.

The two women Patterson and the other defendants were found guilty, of having assaulted, are Victoria Price and Ruby Bates. At one point in his argument when Mr. Watts was attempting to show previous moral misconduct by Victoria Price, and improper relations between her and another principal witness for the State, Justice Joel E. Brown of the Supreme Court inquired from the bench whether counsel was trying the woman or arguing for his client.

Under statutory provision, the Supreme Court will recess on June 30, but it is expected that decision in the Patterson case will be announced before that date.

NEGRO GETS 50-YEAR TERM

Assaulter Sentenced After Identification As Attacker

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 9.—(AP)—Convicted of assaulting a white woman here May 15, Edgar Dawson, negro, was under a 50-year imprisonment sentence today, imposed by a circuit court jury.

Dawson was charged and identified as the negro who forced the woman and her escort into a cemetery as they returned from a night baseball game. Dawson denied at his trial yesterday assaulting the woman and robbing her companion, and presented witnesses in support of an alibi defense.

Lancaster, S. C. News
May 28, 1937

ONCE MORE THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

Once more the Scottsboro case is in the headlines as this case is hard to end. The negroes convicted of assaulting two white girls are probably guilty but the Civil Liberties committee has backed them with enough money to carry the case to the highest courts in the land.

Much ado has been the result of this case and communist sympathizers have been the most vocal in their defense of the defendants. We doubt that this has been wise move as public sentiment has not been gained as to the public at large on the issue although some negroes in the north have been impressed with the spirit shown by the communists.

An effort has been made to make this a second Sacco and Vanzetti case. The radical organizations made a mistake in their spirited defense of Sacco and Vanzetti for the evidence against these two men was overwhelming. The communists overplayed their hand on this case. In the Tom Mooney case in California things were different for the evidence against Mooney was not nearly as clear. The communists and other radical organizations sprang to the defence of Mooney and gained more or less public sympathy for him. It worked so well that they have been looking for defendants to make martyrs of.

In the Scottsboro case there are mitigating circumstances. The morals of the white women were questionable but the crime of assault seemed to have been proved.

Andalusia, Ala., News
May 27, 1937

The notorious Scottsboro case will be settled next fall when both sides agree to a compromise. The nine negroes will plead guilty while the prosecution has agreed to lessen the sentences. It is a disgrace when the prosecution has to compromise with the defendant and a slap in the face of our present system of meting out justice. These nine negroes will, in all probability, be given a contract for stage appearance before they die.

Scottsboro Negro Loses His Appeal

Supreme Court Overrules All Defense Points

Heywood Patterson, negro "Scottsboro case" defendant thrice saved from death verdicts, yesterday lost before the Alabama Supreme Court his appeal from a 75-year sentence imposed a year ago in Morgan County Circuit Court.

Clarence Watts, associate defense counsel, said at Huntsville, "I understand an appeal will be taken" to the U. S. Supreme Court. Samuel Leibowitz, New Yorker and chief of defense, later confirmed this.

The Alabama court ruled against Patterson on all points raised in his appeal, including one that he was denied constitutional rights in the trial court.

Patterson and eight other negroes, pulled from a freight train near Scottsboro in March, 1931, were accused of assaulting two white women hoboes, Ruby Bates and Mrs. Victoria Price, of Huntsville. Patterson was convicted last in the Price case.

Other defendants, held in jail at Birmingham, await a resumption of trials at Decatur on July 6.

"When the record is examined, as has been done, we find no reversible error," the Supreme Court's verdict said. It was written by Associate Justice W. H. Thomas and concurred in by Chief Justice John C. Anderson and Associates Joel Brown and Thomas E. Knight. Three remaining justices did not sit on the case, argued May 27.

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Columbia, S. C. State
March 26, 1937

SCOTTSBORO CASE BOBS UP AGAIN DOWN IN ALABAMA

(Copyright, 1937, by United Press.)

Birmingham, Ala., March 25—(UP)—Six years after their original arrest on a charge of attacking two white women, the nine internationally famouse Scottsboro boys tonight faced prospect of reopening of their trials.

The United Press learned from a reliable source that new trial dates had been set and would be announced in the near future. The informant said the trials probably would be reopened in midsummer if "present plans are carried out."

Meanwhile, the Alabama supreme court granted a new continuance on the appeal of Heywood Patterson, under a 75 year sentence after his fourth conviction of attacking the two white women hoboes.

Patterson has been under death sentence three times, but has won new trials in high courts. His last trial—last year—ended in a sentence of 75 years' imprisonment. Samuel Leibowitz, chief of the Scottsboro defense, requested the postponement until April 22 on the young Negro's appeal.

Only six of the nine Negro youths who allegedly attacked the white women March 25, 1931, will face trial at the new hearings this summer. In order of their scheduled trials, they are: Clarence Norris, Andy Wright, Charlie Weems, Ozie Powell, Willie Robertson and Olin Montgomery.

Patterson's new trial ended in conviction, and the others were postponed when Powell was shot by a sheriff. The Negro attempted to stab guards taking him to the Jefferson jail here.

Two others of the nine—Eugene Williams and Roy Wright—were minors at the time of the alleged crime. They have not been rearraigned.

"We have, as lawyers, a definite obligation in this situation. If the American people fully realize the gravity and importance of the issue, if they are given an opportunity to form an intelligent understanding of the results almost certain to follow if this assault on the judiciary is successful, if they are brought to a full knowledge of the fact that the American system of government is at stake, and that what may work in Europe will not work in a federal union such as ours, if they can be made to see that their birthright of freedom and individual liberty, purchased at an immeasurable price, is about to be sold for a mess of doubtful pottage, the outcome is far from hopeless. As members of the bar, we can, more than any other group or class, promote this understanding. It is, I believe, our solemn duty to do so."

Scottsboro Case Appeal Is Postponed To May 17

Atlanta

By agreement of counsel, submission to the Alabama Supreme Court of the appeal of Heywood Patterson, one of the eight negro "Scottsboro Case" defendants, which had been set for yesterday, was postponed until May 17. 4-23-37

The postponement was asked, it was stated, on account of the inadvertent omission from the transcript of certain affidavits and testimony introduced by the State in evidence during the trial. These omissions will, in the meantime, be corrected.

Charged jointly with his seven co-defendants, with criminally assaulting two young white women near Paint Rock, in Jackson County, in March, 1931, Patterson's appeal is from his fourth conviction and the imposing of a sentence of 75 years imprisonment.

Fear, Suffering Seen In Eyes Of Scottsboro Boys

Writer Who Covered Second of Famous Trials, Revisits Youths In Birmingham Jail; Finds Freedom Is Still Their Fond Dream

By P. BERNARD YOUNG, JR.
Journal and Guide Managing Editor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Six years and a few days ago nine boys were trapped in a web of circumstance that put them in the valley of the shadow of death, thrust them into the headlines of the world's press, and set in motion the longest, bitterest, and most costly series of trials in the history of Alabama.

Four years ago—in 1933—this writer covered the second in their series of trials, held at Decatur, and ordered by the U. S. Supreme Court upon the grounds that the speedy, mob-dominated trials held at Scottsboro were legal mockeries. On Friday he visited them in the Jefferson County jail here, where they are being held for safekeeping pending their next trials.

In these six years one of the youths, Haywood Patterson, has heard the awful sentence of death pronounced three times, and the hardly less severe sentence of 75 years pronounced—at his fourth and last trial, a little over a year ago.

BACKGROUND OF CASE

Clarence Norris has been sentenced twice to die, once at Scottsboro and once at Decatur.

Six of the others were doomed to die at the Scottsboro fiasco trials, while Eugene Williams' tender age caused a mistrial even in passion and hatred-filled Scottsboro.

These six others doomed at Scottsboro in April, 1931, are Ozie Powell, Olin Montgomery, Willie Robertson, Charlie Weems, Andy Wright, and Roy Wright—the latter two brothers.

In the first appeal of the case the verdict against Roy Wright wa sset aside by the Alabama Supreme Court because of his age. The other convictions were set aside by the land's highest tribunal in Washington after the first trials.

NEW TRIALS ORDERED

Judge James Horton, presiding judge at the second trial, removed to Decatur in the hope that more exact justice might be achieved, himself set aside the second verdict against Patterson, reached on Palm Sunday of 1933, with the emphatic declaration that "the preponderance of the evidence was in favor of the innocence of the defendant." That ended his judicial career in this state. The Supreme Court ruled for the boys in subsequent appeals.

Except for Patterson and Norris, none of the remaining seven youths has faced a jury since that terrible April 9, 1931.

What have these six long dreary, hopeless years meant to these boys, so clearly the children of injustice, so certainly the victims of a crime which was never committed by them nor anyone else?

What have these half dozen interminable twelve-months done to them? How have they changed? What do they do? What do they hope for? What is in the hands of fate for them?

These things this writer, accompanied by Ellis F. Corbett, circulation manager of the Journal and Guide, sought to discover in the interview.

BOYS HAVE CHANGED

They have matured, naturally, with the years—but most significantly, beyond their years. In their eyes, in the droop of their bodies, in the lines of their young faces, is the story of misery and fear and dread, of hope and hopelessness, and of suffering almost unimaginable.

Not so much physical suffering, although that is there, what with dark, solitary confinement and heaven really knows what else. But the suffering of cowed, helpless, innocent boys.

Haywood Patterson, to one who watched him closely and often talked to him during the eventful course of his two-weeks second trial, has suffered most during these six years. Beyond question he is breaking. The brilliant counsel of the boys, Samuel Leibowitz of New York, charged some months ago that they were slowly losing their minds. Only an expert could pass final judgment on that, but the great lawyer's fears do not rest lightly upon one after visiting these long suffering youths. 4-24-37

PATTERSON HARD HIT

Patterson is highly nervous and jumpy; his eyes have a strange and oppressive brightness; his smile seems forced. Oue sees these things and his heart bleeds and tries to understand, and one seeks to convey his sympathy and instill courage into Patterson and his comrades in misery.

One does not attempt to give them hope. Too often they have hoped and hope has been dashed. One cannot bring himself to instill a new hope that may, for long years yet, be dashed in the harsh words from the sternly lined lips of another jury foreman—"guilty as charged and his punishment fixed at death in the electric chair."

One simply grips the boys' hands and says: "Keep your chin up!"

GUARD 'NEARBY

They talked freely, although the stout guard escorting us to their seventh floor cells, stood within earshot watching our every move. This particular jail attendant was far above the average of those encountered in two visits to

fered the answer, nodded in agree- n't really care who so long as he could an you get us free? has been mighty any Communist, Communists have e of some trouble, en for them we all en dead now. We

have seen prejudice override evidence. Yet they can talk to you and the other nodd eagerly of freedom for themselves. ment: "We don't r is our lawyer, so lo

HIGH COURAGE

These boys are unlettered and the products of a system of proscription and discrimination, but their courage is marvelous to behold. Time and again mobs have almost smashed their jail doors; day in and day out they have known the intimidation of Alabama police; trial after trial they

"There has been considerable discussion about your lawyer and the proposal to substitute Alabamans for Leibowitz. How do you feel about this?" I asked Mr. Leibowitz. He isn't any- Patterson offered get us free. Can yo so long as he could has been mighty any Communist, Communists have e of some trouble, en for them we all en dead now. We

if it hadn't been for that."

would have been d

THIS IS HOW THEY LOOK AFTER SIX YEARS IN PRISON

The Scottsboro boys as they look now, six years after their arrest. Left to right: Ozie Powell, Olin Montgomery, Willie Robertson, Charlie Weems, Clarence Norris, Haywood Patterson, Andy Wright and Eugene Williams. Roy Wright is not on the picture. An exclusive interview with the boys, now lodged in the Jefferson County jail, Birmingham, Alabama, is published in this issue.

the jail, during the first of which we were literally put through the third degree and flatly refused permission to visit the boys, the refusal being freely punctuated with profanity, the venomous use of the epithet "nigger," and a shouted warning that "if you want to stay around here you will learn to say 'yes, suh' to us white folks." But that is another story to be found in another column.

Once I addressed one of the boys during the interview as "Mr." and several chorused: "Don't call us 'Mr.' around here, please." I knew what was back of that admonition, only too well. A citizen must be ready and willing to suffer indignity upon indignity, and even flirts with violence in the deeper South, when he attempts to merely be a man: and a reporter must decide between getting a story or conforming to the unequal amenities.

PRESENT AGES

Two of the boys are now 35 years of age—Montgomery and Weems. Three are 24—Patterson, Norris, and Andy Wright. Powell is 22, Roy Wright 20, and Eugene Williams, 19. Robertson is 20.

Patterson's father, Claude Patterson, 50, of Chtattanooga, Tenn. he told us, died on last March 25, the exact 6th anniversary of the arrest of the Scottsboro boys at Paint Rock, Ala.

He still is in love with Miss Mattie Johnson, the Decatur girl he met during his trials there.

"But she done been scared," he said. "They wouldn't let her visit me the last time I was in Decatur. She sure is pretty and nice."

BOYS GRATEFUL

Next to her Patterson most admires Miss Juanita Jackson of the N. A. A. C. P. staff, who visited them some months ago. This admiration is shared by all of the boys. They also think the world of Mrs. Walter Harris, of Birmingham, who sponsored Christmas baskets for them in cooperation with a local group here.

The general health of the boys seems good, but Andy Wright needs money for medicine for a painful ailment growing out of his inactivity, while Patterson complains of high blood pressure. Eugene Williams reported himself feeling very poorly.

The parents and relatives of the boys, who are living, write them and, as often as their meager finances permit, they visit them. Interested persons in several countries write the youths letters of sympathy and encouragement they stated.

IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Here in the jail, built a few years ago, and absolutely escape proof, the youths are kept in separate cells in solitary confinement. Twice a week they are permitted an exercise period in a walled but roofless section of the top (7th) floor.

For the interview they were brought to this exercise area, all but Robertson, Andy Wright, and Eugene Williams. To these we talked in their cells. Before the interview with them was over the jailer let them out and re-locked them in a larger cell where we could talk to them simultaneously. Why they were refused leave from soliary confinement with the others was not explained clearly to us.

The boys are divided in their opinion of their ultimate fate. All are hoping for the best and constantly think of the day of eventual freedom.

PRAISE JUDGE HORTON

They are unanimous in their opinion that Judge Horton was the fairest judge. They share, with emphasis, the opinion which all fair-minded citizens do of Judge W. W. "Speed" Callahan, who has conducted the hearings since Judge Horton was defeated for re-election to the bench They frankly do not expect an even break from him.

Of the scrape on the highway while they were enroute from Decatur to Birmingham following their last trial, they were not so willing to talk, but there was agreement that the officer who was knifed, allegedly by Powell was wounded only after maltreating and pummeling the youngster. One effect of the bullet wound Powell suffered in the head is difficulty in hearing.

THEIR WANTS LISTED

The boys want cigarettes most of all. After that they want spending change and clothing and shoes, or money to buy them with. We divided several dollars among them for smokes. Patterson insisted that the writer give him a handkerchief as a memento of our acquaintance.

Young Williams even went so far as to designate the brand, color, and heel style of a pair of shoes he craved —and sorely needs.

As the interview closed the boys moved without hesitation, upon orders from the jailer, to their respective cells. As the electrically opened and closed doors of the escape-proof jail clanged behind them, I wondered —as the world wonders—"What will be the final fate of these martyrs to the implacable tradition that a white woman's charge is prima facie evidence of a Negro's guilt?"

WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

One hesitates to answer. If someone had violated the hoboing girls—one of whom has recanted and confessed that the charges were made to save themselves from prosecution on Mann Act charges--and it was a question only if these were the guilty persons, one might feel that there was no hope of vindication for the Scottsboro boys. But after hearing every word of testimony of the Scottsboro physician who examined the girls within forty minutes of the supposed crime, I Know That nobody attacked Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on that fateful freight night.

Hence I cannot bring myself to believe that even Alabama will take the lives of these nine boys, or much of the cruelest possible miscarriage of longer deprive them of their precious liberty. I may be wrong. But if I am, the State of Alabama will have been guilty

Alabama.

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NEGRO IS GIVEN CHAIR IN ATTACK

Appeal Taken In Sentence For Injury Of Overton Schoolgirl, 11

Case of Curtis Cobb, 21-year-old Negro janitor at Overton School, who was sentenced to death yesterday for criminally assaulting 11-year-old Ethel Weaver, today was headed for the State Supreme Court.

Defense Atty. J. R. Payne said he would serve notice of an appeal immediately. Cobb was ordered to die in the electric chair, Feb. 26.

The Negro, his spine severed by a pistol bullet fired by the girl's father the day after the attack last October, heard death sentence pronounced as he sat in a wheel chair in Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court.

Ethel had identified Cobb as her attacker from the stand. Her testimony was corroborated by her school chum, Katherine Ballinger. The two children were going home from school when the attack occurred.

Ethel's father, J. G. Weaver told of going with a group of men to find his daughter lying with her arm broken at the foot of a ravine where she was thrown by her attacker.

Cobb, the only witness in his own behalf, attempted in a barely audible voice, to establish an alibi. He said he arrived at the school that afternoon as usual after the children had left.

When he finished his work, he said, he went home "by the highway," to distinguish from the railroad short-cut the girls had taken.

Judge Wheeler took a hand in the questioning at this stage and repeatedly asked Cobb if he had met anyone during his walk home, but the Negro was unable to name anyone who could support his alibi testimony.

As he testified he fingered a tattered Bible which lay in his lap.

NEGRO ACQUITTED IN ATTACK CHARGE

Jury Finds Monroe Prentice Not Guilty

1-20-37

Monroe Prentice, 64-year-old Negro janitor of a Southside apartment house, was at liberty today after a jury of business men last night acquitted him of the charge of criminally attacking Mrs. W. P. Bitz, who lives in the apartment house.

Mrs. Bitz accused the Negro of attacking her when he was called to her apartment to go on an errand last Sept. 4.

Prentice, emphatically denying the charge when he took the stand in his own defense yesterday afternoon, said he was physically incapable of committing the offense.

The jury brought in its verdict to Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler after deliberating two hours and 15 minutes.

Negro Is Identified By Girl, 10, As Attacker

1-22-37

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 21.—(AP)—A pretty 10-year-old school girl took the witness stand today and pointed to Curtis Cobb, school janitor, as the negro who attacked her and broke her arm.

Cobb, who pleaded not guilty, was brought into the courtroom in a wheel chair to face trial. He still was suffering the effects of a bullet wound inflicted last Oct. 6 by the girl's father. The shot was fired when the negro was brought before the child and her father.

The girl told the jury her assailant seized her as she and another girl walked along a mountain path en route home from the school where the janitor worked. She said the negro dragged her down a slope, attacked her and then tossed her over a cliff. Her arm was broken in the fall, she said.

NEGRO GOES ON TRIAL FOR ATTACKING GIRL

1-21-37

Curtis Cobb, Overton Negro, sat in a wheel chair in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court today and listened to testimony which the state believes will name him as attacker of 11-year-old Ethel Weaver.

Dr. E. M. Robinson, Overton physician, told the jury that he examined the girl at her home and found she had been criminally attacked. He said he also found she had suffered a broken arm.

Cobb was shot by Ethel's father, J. G. Weaver, watchman-operator of near Overton, the day following the attack last October.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
January 13, 1937

MORE AUTHORITY OF JUDGES ASKED

Nullification of Scottsboro Decision Seen in Bell's Measure

Daily Dispatch Bureau,
In the Sir Walter Hotel.
By J. C. BASKERVILL

Raleigh, Jan. 13.—Recalling successful nullification of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments by indirection, veteran political observers see a similar effort to nullify the U. S. Supreme Court decision in the Scottsboro case in a bill introduced by Senator James A. Bell, of Mecklenburg, empowering superior court judges to dissolve grand juries at their pleasure.

Of course the bill cuts both ways, the same observers agree, as it would give judges the power to prevent discrimination against Negro jurors by use of the same power of dissolution.

Senator Bell declined to commit himself definitely on the meaning and implications of his proposal, but smilingly offered no objection to the interpretation that it was an effort to nullify the Scottsboro decision.

It was recalled on all sides that Negroes have recently served on Mecklenburg grand and petit juries for the first time since Reconstruction days. It was pointed out at the time that the presiding judge had no course open to him other than to quash all indictments found by grand juries on which Negroes had not been drawn.

But if the Bell proposal becomes a law, any judge could dissolve any grand jury whose composition he did not like and there are many who believe that the jurists would not hesitate to exercise this power in such a way as to prevent too many Negroes serving, as well as to prevent too gross discrimination against members of the Negro race.

The measure does not extend to petit juries, observers believe, because attorneys for the State or for the defense can always take care of the situation there by use of the challenges allowed by law.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
January 13, 1937

May Nullify Scottsboro Decision

(Sentinel Bureau, Sir Walter Hotel)

Raleigh.—Recalling successful nullification of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments by indirection, veteran political observers see a similar effort to nullify the United States Supreme Court decision in the Scottsboro case in a bill introduced by Sen. James A. Bell of Mecklenburg empowering superior court judges to dissolve grand juries at their pleasure.

Of course the bill cuts both ways, the same observers agree, as it would give judges the power to prevent discrimination against Negro jurors by use of the same power of dissolution.

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Dothan, Ala. Eagle
January 22, 1937

A Birmingham Negro has been acquitted of a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman. Let The New Republic and The Nation, "liberal" weeklies, comment on THAT.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 23, 1936

"LONDON CALLING"

English Newspaper Again Phones About Scottsboro Negroes

London had checked up on the Scottsboro Negroes a second time by overseas telephone today.

One of the many episodes in the Scottsboro case prompted a London newspaper to call the sheriff's office here more than a year ago. And last night Warden J. G. Murphy was surprised when he picked up the phone and was told the editor of The London Daily News was on the other end of the wire.

Murphy said the London editor's voice was almost as clear as if he had been making a local call, as he questioned the warden about the Scottsboro Negroes, who are confined in County Jail. The editor asked if the Negroes were still in solitary confinement, and Murphy told him some of them are. There are nine of the Scottsboro Negroes in jail here.

Murphy answered other questions propounded by the editor and, after an exchange of holiday greetings, the overseas interview was ended.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 22, 1937

More Evidence Of Racial Fairness

For the second time within the last few months, a Jefferson County jury has acquitted a Negro identified by a white woman as her assailant in a criminal attack. The case decided this week involved a Negro janitor on the Southside. The other case resulted in the acquittal of a Negro WPA worker living near Irondale.

In each of these trials a white jury weighed the identification against testimony brought forth on behalf of the Negro and decided that the evidence did not point to the defendant's guilt. Not infrequently, of course, an identification is a matter of doubt. Apparently the jurors concluded that this was true of these cases.

Let those who cry out in other sections that the black man in the South always is denied an even chance at justice ponder these two cases.

Last night a Criminal Court jury returned a verdict in another assault case. In this case a 21-year-old Negro school janitor was convicted of criminally assaulting a 10-year-old schoolgirl. This was a most atrocious case, and there was no doubt of the criminal's identity. The jury gave him the death penalty.

It is worth while to consider these verdicts together. They show that justice can be done in such cases in the South, without regard to racial considerations. It is heartening to see juries base their judgments strictly on the evidence in such cases. It is good to know both that jurors will convict and give due punishment under the law when the evidence warrants it and that they will not convict when the testimony does not, in their deliberate judgment, justify a verdict of guilty.

Scottsboro Case To Be Resumed

DECATUR, ALA., Feb. 27.—(AP)—The six-year-old "Scottsboro Case"—involving nine negroes charged with assaulting two white women—bounded back into Alabama's legal picture today with some legal authorities predicting a resumption of trials "within several weeks."

Predictions were based on a closed conference here today between Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael, Thomas S. Lawson, assistant attorney general assigned to the "Scottsboro case", and Judge W. W. Callahan, presiding jurist of Morgan circuit, in charge of trials since the case was moved here from Jackson County.

All the conferees were non-committal, although Carmichael said:

"It was a routine, informal conference before trial."

The negro defendants, the State charges, assaulted two young white women aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., on March 25, 1931. Eight are awaiting trial, while the ninth is under a 75-year sentence now pending on appeal.

Twice death sentences in the case have been reversed by the U. S. Supreme Court. First, when seven received death sentences, the U. S. Court held they had been without adequate counsel. The second time, when two death sentences were carried up, the high tribunal held that negroes "systematically" had been excluded from jury service. Two defendants were held to be juveniles.

The trials were brought to Morgan County on a change of venue. The defendants are held in jail at Birmingham, 90 miles away.

CAUSE FOR REJOICING

If rumors to the effect that the "Scottsboro cases" have been adjusted turn out to be a prelude to actual settlement, Alabamans, as well as southerners in general, will have reason to rejoice. The amazing thing is that some short cut was not found long ago to get rid of this nightmare.

Whatever may be the merits of the controversy, two outgrowths of the affair are beyond dispute. It was given a political aspect when Lieutenant Governor Knight, who prosecuted the cases, ran for his present post largely on the basis of his handling of the trials. And it made the state of Alabama the special target of radicals and reformers eager to exploit every untoward event.

If this case had been well handled to begin with, there would have been no such aftermath as has developed. The cases would not have gone to the United States supreme court time and again, giving the whole country a painful and distorted impression.

Since that first blunder, Alabama authorities have continued making grievous mistakes, with the result that "Scottsboro" has become another name for a shirt of Nessus, to be worn with agony and not to be cast off. It is a sorry mess, which ineptitude, reversals from Washington, and resentment cooked up to bedevil the people of Alabama.

Recently, former Congressman Carmichael, of Tuscumbia, undertook to represent the defendants. There was thereby brought into the picture a sane and respected force likely to make itself felt for the good of the community. If an agreement has been reached to prevent a fresh ventilation of the Scottsboro business, Mr. Carmichael's participation must have contributed to the arrangement.

Bridgeport, Ala. Herald
March 11, 1937

WHY SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO PAY THE BILL?

The recent announcement that the negroes in the famed "Scottsboro Case," will be given new hearings soon in Decatur reminds one of the immensely tangled red tape found in the law where money making schemes appear.

On March 25, 1931, six years ago nine negroes (foreign to this county) were arrested for attacking two white women of Huntsville who were enroute home from Chattanooga by freight train near Stevenson. In spite of the high tension created by the crime Jackson County did itself justice in protecting the criminals and giving them fair trials according to law. Thus the publicity branded the cases as the "Scottsboro Case."

Since then the negroes have been kept in other county jails for their safe keeping, spending the greater part of the time in Jefferson County and their board bill marked up to Jackson County, plus the cost of the court procedure of their various trials during the long stretch of six years.

It would be well that Jackson Countians object to continue to pay the cost of the negroes upkeep and court trials. If there is doubt to the evidence submitted in the trials why couldn't the sentences have been so that the criminals could have been put in the work houses like other criminals and given something to do toward paying for their own upkeep?

This case has undoubtedly proved the weakness of the law of our state. It lowers the dignity of our courts and costs the citizens of the state enormous amounts because someone grasped the chance to cash in on a money scheme.

Scottsboro Boys Observe Their Sixth 'Anniversary'

'We Want To Get Out,' They Chant As Fourth Trial Nears; Date For New Hearing Already Has Been Set, With Knight Ready To Prosecute

"We wanna git out."

Nine young Negro men stood in the "sun room" of the Jefferson County Jail today and chorused this plea in unison on the sixth anniversary of their arrest in a case which has become famous around the world.

It was six years ago this morning that a freight train puffed out of Chattanooga, Tenn., towards Scottsboro, with 12 Negro boys huddled in one gondola car and a carload of white hobos, including two women, in the car just in front of them.

On the day the alleged Scottsboro attack case occurred, not a newspaper in Alabama carried the story on the front page, although since then the story has been published repeatedly on the front pages of newspapers the world over.

It was a little before noon that a white hobo, with his trousers torn and a cut on his knee, shuffled into the office of the railroad agent at Stevenson and told a story of how the white men had been thrown off the train and the two girls ravished.

The agent immediately wired to Scottsboro, where the train was stopped and nine of the 12 Negroes were captured.

Since then the cases have been tried three times, twice to be reversed by the U. S. Supreme Court and once for the verdict to be set aside by an Alabama circuit judge who held the evidence insufficient to convict.

New trial dates have been set and will be announced soon, it was learned on high authority today.

A central figure in prosecution of the cases said the trials would be reopened in the early Summer "if present plans are carried out."

Special Prosecutor Thomas E. Knight, on account of whose illness the trials have been postponed since January, 1936, told United Press in Montgomery today that he was fully recovered and "ready to go ahead with the trials at any time."

Only six of the Negroes will face trial when the new dates are announced. They are, in the order of their scheduled trials, Clarence Norris, Andy Wright, Charlie Weems, Ozie Powell, Willie Robertson and Olin Montgomery.

Two of the nine—Eugene Williams and Roy Wright, minors at the time of their arrest—have not been rearraigned.

One, Haywood Patterson, was convicted at his fourth trial in January, 1936, and sentenced to 75 years in prison. This conviction also is on its way to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Two—Williams and Wright—have grown up behind prison bars. Wright is 20 years old today. He was 14 when he was first arrested. Williams is slightly older.

Ozie Powell, shot by a deputy after he slashed a guard's throat in an escape attempt last year, said he was "feeling all right."

In accordance with ruling by the United States Supreme Court, the Negroes were reindicted in 1935 by a Jackson County Grand Jury that included a member of their own race. The high court had previously reversed death sentences for all nine on the grounds that Negroes were barred from jury lists in Alabama.

All but the two youngest, who were turned over to a juvenile court, were rearraigned.

They were formally charged with the assault of Mrs. Victoria Price, traveling woman "hobo" aboard a freight train roaring through Northern Alabama.

Nine Identified

Mrs. Price testified that six of the 12 Negroes on the train attacked her and that the other six attacked Ruby Bates. She identified six of the nine caught as her attackers and three as among those who attacked the Bates girl.

The Bates girl at the trial of Heywood Patterson in Decatur in 1933 dramatically denied that the Negroes attacked her and declared that she and Victoria cooked up the attack story to gain sympathy.

IT'S CONTINUED

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, March 25.—The Alabama Supreme Court today continued until April 22 a hearing on an appeal by Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro Negroes, from a 75-year sentence imposed in Morgan County last year. Sam Leibowitz, New York attorney who defended Patterson, wrote the court asking for a continuance.

NEW TRIAL ASKED FOR CONDEMNED NEGRO

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, March 31.—Defense attorneys today charged that Negroes were excluded from jury lists in Calhoun County in the trial of Roosevelt Collins, 21-year-old Negro sentenced to die for an alleged attack on a white woman near Alexandria last July.

In a brief filed with the Alabama Supreme Court, the Negro's attorneys asked that the high tribunal grant Collins a new trial on grounds he was denied "equal protection under the law."

Collins was convicted in Calhoun Circuit Court last September for assaulting Mrs. Lula Hill near Alexandria.

Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael denied that Negroes were excluded from venire lists. The court took the appeal under advisement.

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4 GIVEN FREEDOM IN 'ATTACK' CASES

Continued

End of Scottsboro Trials Seen; Two Others Are Found Guilty by Jury.

7-25-37

DECATUR, Ala., July 24.—(AP) Freedom for four "Scottsboro" negroes, and penitentiary terms for two others, came in swift succession here today, and a source competent to speak of the famous gang rape case said "this is the end of these trials."

After more than six years in Alabama jails, four defendants were released here at noon.

Laughing and smiling, Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams and Roy Wright ran out of the Morgan county jail and were driven out a highway leading to Nashville. They were accompanied by two state highway patrolmen and by the Scottsboro defense chief, Samuel S. Leibowitz.

Two Found Guilty.

A few minutes earlier, a jury returned a guilty verdict and fixed punishment at 75 years imprisonment for Charlie Weems, and Ozie Powell pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder, and was sentenced to 20 years.

The rape charges were dropped in Powell's case, as they were against the four freed. Powell was sentenced for an attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in January, 1936, made while the negroes were being transferred from Decatur to Birmingham.

A death decree still is on the record against one "Scottsboro" defendant, Clarence Norris; and two others are under prison sentences, Andy Wright 99 years, and Heywood Patterson, 75 years.

It was predicted by a high source the defense "will drop the appeals in the Heywood Patterson and Andy Wright cases, and the Governor will extend clemency to Clarence Norris."

Thus, the source which declined to be quoted directly, foresaw the end to the case, which began March 25, 1931 when the nine negroes were taken from a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala., and accused of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates. The girls claimed they became the victims of a gang rape after they caught the train to return to their Huntsville, Ala., homes, after a trip in search for work.

Huge Cost of Case.

Prosecution of the case during the six intervening years has cost the state between $50,000 and $75,000, according to Alabama Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael.

A prepared statement, issued by Assistant Attorney General Thomas S. Lawson, Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Decatur and Solicitor H. G. Bailey, of the Scottsboro circuit, said the prosecution staff considered Roberson and Montgomery innocent and would release Williams and Roy Wright, brother of Andy Wright, because they were juveniles at the time of the alleged crime and "in view of the fact they have been in jail for six and one half years."

In vivid contrast with the original trials at Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931, the court room was virtually empty when the Weems jury came in at 11 a. m. to begin the most eventful 30 minutes of the six-year-history of the case.

At Scottsboro, troops guarded the courtroom and hundreds tried vainly for seats.

Eleventh Jury in Case.

The Weems jury was the eleventh to hear the evidence in the "Scottsboro" case. All but one returned verdicts of guilty, and that, the Roy Wright jury at Scottsboro in 1931, failed to agree.

Twice the United States supreme court set aside death sentences, first because the defendants were "without benefit of adequate counsel" in the original trials, and later holding negroes were systematically excluded from the juries which handled the case.

The latter ruling brought changes in jury methods in many deep south states.

Negroes were drawn in the jury panel for each of the last series of trials, but none served.

Leibowitz, worn by the strain of nearly two weeks in a sweltering courtroom, was jubilant after the cases were dropped. "No statement," he told newspapermen as he left Decatur.

There was no demonstration in Decatur as the cases were dropped. The negroes were gone within 25 minutes. No crowd gathered either at the court house or jail.

FATE OF NEGRO IN JURY'S HANDS

Continued

Leibowitz Takes Exception To Entire Charge Of Judge Callahan

7-21-37

By James C. Hutto
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 21.—A jury today deliberated the fate of Andy Wright, Negro Scottsboro defendant.

Wright's case was given to the jury at 10:35 a. m. after a charge by Judge W. W. Callahan which lasted more than an hour.

The state has asked that Wright be given virtually life imprisonment for his part in the alleged attacks.

As Judge Callahan concluded, Defense Atty. Samuel Leibowitz entered a blanket exception to the entire charge on grounds that the jurist "unduly stressed testimony of the prosecution" without summarizing defense testimony.

In a statement to newspapermen, Mr. Leibowitz termed the judge's charge "biased and unfair," and declared:

"It sounded more like a summation for the state than a judge's charge. He reviewed testimony of practically every state's witness and did not mention that of a single defense witness."

For the first time in the history of the six-year-old Scottsboro cases, the state did not ask the death penalty. A compromise was reached whereby the defense agreed not to ask for a special venire if the prosecution would waive the death penalty.

Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Morgan County, however, asked the jury to fix punishment at "a term of years that will amount to life imprisonment."

"Under the law," he said, "you cannot say life imprisonment on your verdict, but you can say 75 years or 50 years." He explained that agreement not to demand death did not mean the state had any doubt of the defendant's guilt.

FOUR OF NEGROES IN ATTACK CASES GIVEN FREEDOM

News

Williams, Wright, Roberson And Montgomery Released By State Order

7-25-37

LEIBOWITZ, QUARTET LEAVE, NORTHBOUND

Birmingham

Weems Is Given 75 Years, Powell 20, Latter For Stabbing Officer

BY LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, Ala. —(AP)— Freedom for four of the nine "Scottsboro" Negroes, and penitentiary terms for two others, came in swift succession here Saturday, and a source competent to speak of the famous gang rape case said "this is the end of these trials."

After more than six years in Alabama jails, four defendants were released here at noon.

Laughing and smiling, Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams and Roy Wright, ran out of the Morgan County jail and were driven out a highway leading to Nashville. They were accompanied by two state highway patrolmen and by the Scottsboro defense chief, Samuel S. Leibowitz.

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Prosecution of the case during the six intervening years has cost the state between $50,000 and $75,000, according to Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael.

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Labor Defense Group Plans Wide Appeal

NEW YORK—(AP)—The International Labor Defense Saturday urged "nation-wide action on a greater scale than ever" to free the five convicted Scottsboro case defendants.

The organization suggested mass circulation of petitions to Gov. Graves, of Alabama, formation of local committees and mass meetings throughout the country.

"The people of the United States have saved these boys' lives for six years," Secretary Anna Damon said.

"We call upon our membership and friends of justice throughout the country to plunge into action which will demonstrate the mandate of the people—including a good proportion of the people of Alabama itself—that the Scottsboro boys shall not burn in the electric chair, shall not be imprisoned for life, on charges which no one, not even the prosecution and the prosecuting judge who is conducting these trials, can for a moment believe are true."

Samuel Leibowitz's office said Saturday night it had received a telegram from him at Pulaski, Tenn., saying he was on his way here by train with the four Scottsboro case defendants freed Saturday.

His plans were not known, but an assistant said he had spoken in the past of possibly setting up a trust fund for the "boys" and educating them here.

READY TO RESUME SCOTTSBORO CASES

Leibowitz Unlikely to Ask Delay, Despite Illness of Associate in Defense

TRIAL SLATED TOMORROW

Second of Defendants to Face Decatur Jury—Compromise Sentiment Gains

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., July 17.—Despite the illness of Clarence J. Watts, his associate defense counsel in recent trials of the Negroes in the Scottsboro case, Samuel Leibowitz of New York indicated today that he was prepared to proceed alone Monday with the trial of Andy Wright, one of nine Negroes accused of attacking two white girls.

Judge W. W. Callahan recessed the trials Thursday after a jury which deliberated about four hours had found Clarence Norris, another defendant, guilty as charged and condemned him to death in the electric chair.

Eighteen months ago a jury convicted Heywood Patterson, alleged ringleader of the gang of Negroes who are accused of attacking the white girls on a freight train six and a half years ago after driving several white hoboes off in a fight. Victoria Price, one of the girls, is the complainant.

Patterson was sentenced to seventy-five years' imprisonment, and an appeal from the sentence has been considered by the defense, even in the face of a prospect that if he were tried again here he would be condemned to death provided the prosecution, represented by Thomas S. Lawson, Assistant Attorney General, and Melvin C. Hutson, the local solicitor, were to insist upon that penalty.

Defense in Predicament

The conviction of Norris leaves the defense in its worst predicament since the United States Supreme Court reversed the original convictions handed down at Scottsboro more than six years ago. In the several trials that have been held since, the defense always has had some vital Federal issue on which to take the case to the Federal Supreme Court. The Norris trial just ended left the defense attorneys with only a slender reed on which to lean.

That reed is the motion denied by Judge Callahan to transfer the trials to the United States District Court for Northern Alabama on the ground that the Alabama law denying more than one change of venue was discriminatory in that it denied the defendants their constitutional right to a trial before a fair and impartial jury.

It is the contention of the defense that events here since the cases were transferred in 1933 from Jackson to Morgan County have inflamed public opinion against the Negroes and their lawyers.

Following Patterson's last trial, Ozie Powell, one of the defendants, who, the defense says, is now insane, stabbed a deputy sheriff who was guarding him during his transfer from the local jail to Birmingham and was shot through the head. This episode and the defense attack upon the jury system which excluded Negroes from service—a point on which the United States Supreme Court reversed one conviction—have been leading contributions to the hostile attitude of the townsfolk and farmers toward the defense.

Many Favor Settlement

Local sentiment against the Negroes is as strong as ever, but Morgan County is growing weary of the repeated trials, convictions and reversals. To some extent here, and to a greater extent in other sections of the State, there are many among the more literate who, while unwilling to go so far as to concede the possibility that all the Negroes are innocent, feel a reasonable doubt about the guilt of all and would welcome a final settlement which would satisfy the ends of justice and at the same time be acceptable to the defense.

The attitude of these persons is that the constant agitation over the Scottsboro case, which has become as synonymous with Alabama as the name of Tom Mooney with California, is doing the State no good. As the trials have proceeded it has become increasingly evident to observers that a compromise would probably eventuate. As long as the State demands death sentences against a Negro accused by a white woman, juries here will mete them out and a compromise would be the only way of settling the case without death verdicts.

'I AM ON TRIAL,' CRYS LEIBOWITZ

Scottsboro Defense Gives Up Hope For Acquittal Of Third Negro

By James C. Hutto
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 23. — Samuel Leibowitz, chief of the Scottsboro defense counsel, today indicated he virtually had abandoned hope of an acquittal for Charlie Weems, Negro charge with assault in a mass attack on two white women.

In a closing argument, bitter with denunciation of "hates and prejudices," the New York attorney declared:

"I'll be frank with you—I'm not confident of an acquittal. If the solicitor asks you to sentence this Negro to 50 years in prison, your verdict probably will be 99 years."

Leibowitz, who has argued the Scottsboro cases through six years of litigation in state and Federal courts, said he was "sick and tired of this sanctimonious hypocrisy."

"Charlie Weems is not on trial here," he declared. "The State of New York is on trial—put on trial by the solicitor.

"He asks you men on the jury to lynch this Negro because his lawyer comes from New York."

Leibowitz charged that Circuit Solicitor H. G. Bailey, in the state's opening argument yesterday, "spent three minutes discussing the evidence and 27 minutes in flaming the old hates and prejudices."

Leibowitz, attacking the testimony of Mrs. Victoria Price, recalled the testimony of Lester Carter, white youth who identified himself as the companion of Mrs. Price at the time she and Ruby Bates allegedly were assaulted aboard a moving freight train near Scottsboro in 1931.

Earlier, Mrs. Price had identified Weems as one of the six Negroes who allegedly assaulted her and said he was one of "two or three" who had pistols. She said he hit her on the head with his gun.

Closing arguments began with opening of court today and the case was expected to reach the jury before noon.

SCOTTSBORO JURY ASKED TO GIVE LIFE

State Waives Death Penalty in Case of Andy Wright, but Insists on His Conviction

CLASH OVER NEW YORK

Prosecution Again Attacks Outside Efforts for Negroes and Brings Retort From Leibowitz

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., July 20.—Melvin C. Hutson, circuit solicitor of Morgan County, told the jury in the Scottsboro case today that he wanted Andy Wright, a Negro accused of attacking Victoria Price, punished not by death in the electric chair but by life imprisonment.

Making the closing argument for the State, Mr. Hutson declared that, in waiving the death penalty in Wright's case, he was not expressing the least doubt regarding his guilt. Why, after all these years of demanding death for the Negroes, the State had shifted, he declared, was no concern of the jury.

"If you do your duty as well as I'm trying to do mine," he said, "we'll get through with this business right quick.

"There is no question but what the crime was committed on that freight train," Mr. Hutson declared.

"The question for you men to decide is whether Andy Wright participated in the commission of that crime and I submit that, by his own story and the testimony of Victoria Price, he stands convicted."

Praising Mrs. Price for her six-and-a-half-year fight "to vindicate the laws of Alabama against the onslaughts of powerful forces in the North, aided by skillful and resourceful counsel," the Solicitor continued:

"Now we are nearing the end of that long fight. This jury can ill-afford to call Victoria Price a miserable perjurer just because Wright, this Negro defendant, says he did not do what she says he did. The question before you is what punishment to mete out.

Leibowitz Sees "Reasonable Doubt"

"Don't say to yourselves that, because we consented to the dismissal of the special venire in this case and waived the death penalty, there was any question of doubt about the guilt of this defendant," Mr. Hutson went on. "If I had any such doubt I would not be here prosecuting him. It is not for you members of the jury to ask why we did what we did. That is for the State.

"Alabama expects you to do your duty. Let's do the job. Let's get it behind us."

H. G. Bailey, the solicitor from Jackson County who prosecuted the first trials in Scottsboro in April, 1931, opened the State's summations with an attack on New York City generally, and Lester Carter, who had come from New York to testify for the defense, especially.

Samuel Leibowitz, chief counsel for the defense, argued for Wright's acquittal because of the many "reasonable doubts" which, he said, the State's case left regarding the defendant's guilt.

Mr. Leibowitz declared he was growing a little weary of listening to attacks on lawyers and witnesses from New York. He was being forced to the conclusion, he declared, that this extraneous issue was being introduced at the close of every trial as a sort of "knockout punch for the defense."

As a lawyer, he pointed out, he had a right to try cases in any State in this country, but, he declared, if juries here were to make up their minds before hearing any evidence that they would put outsiders "in their place," he was just wasting his time and might "just as well go home and let you do what you will with these helpless Negroes."

Jury Is Locked Up

"Every time these cases have been tried they've got in the business about New York at the very end," Mr. Leibowitz said. "That seems to be the clincher, and its worked every time.

"I can't fight that kind of thing. I'm entitled to an acquittal in this case, and I ask you men in all seriousness to do what you swore at the outset you would do.

"If a reasonable doubt arising from the evidence springs up in your minds, give the defendant the benefit of that doubt then stand pat for 100 hours if necessary so that justice may be done."

The jury to try Wright was completed at the opening of the morning's session. Victoria Price took the stand immediately afterward, relating her story once more.

Following Mrs. Price, the State called farmers and others who have

been subpoenaed because Wright had made no statement whatever.

The summations were ended at 5:20 P. M. at which time Judge W. W. Callahan, holding that it was too late to charge the jury, recessed court until tomorrow morning and ordered the jury locked up.

William Richter, an associate of Leibowitz, took the witness stand to impeach the testimony of C. F. Simmons, a Jackson County deputy Sheriff, who testified for the State that Wright told him that he had not molested the white women, but that the eight other Negroes had.

Mr. Richter said that five minutes before Mr. Simmons took the stand the deputy had told him that he was at a loss to tell why he had

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

5618

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 25, 1937

At Last We Are Rid Of The Scottsboro Case

The Scottsboro case is ended. The state has dropped all charges against four of the nine defendants. In reality, the charge of assault on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates has been nol prossed in five of the cases, for while the fifth Negro is under sentence, it is for a charge of assault with intent to murder growing out of an attack on a deputy sheriff. The other four Negroes remain under conviction on the charges of rape, with varying sentences imposed on them.

The dropping of five of these cases and the reported agreements concerning the other cases in which convictions have been secured represent a triumph of common sense and moderation. These cases, dragging on for more than six years in an atmosphere of doubt and dispute, with all the unsavory elements that have entered into them, have been a perennial nightmare to Alabama. The great majority of the people of this state, *The News-Age-Herald* is convinced, will rejoice to be rid of them.

At most, the truth of these charges has been extremely doubtful. There has been evidence and testimony to indicate that the Negroes actually were not guilty as charged. One of the accusers, Ruby Bates, repudiated her original testimony that she was assaulted, and denied that there were any assaults on either her or Victoria Price. The latter testified throughout the numerous trials that she was assaulted, though her testimony, in its conflicting statements and in its discrepancies with the testimony of others, was of such a nature that it was never conclusive.

Grave doubt therefore surrounded these charges. In view of this doubt, and in view of all the other circumstances, no one could be certain of where truth and justice lay. In this uncertainty, the sensible thing from every standpoint was to do just what the state has done—end the sorry mess in the most convenient way.

Apparently there has been an agreement between the state and the defense that the most convenient way to end the cases was to drop the remaining charges and let the convictions stand, together with an understanding, according to reports credited as authoritative, that clemency would be granted in the case of the death sentence imposed on one of the defendants.

The status of the five Negroes under conviction is varied. In the case of Ozie Powell, the charge of rape has been dropped, but he has pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder in connection with his attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in January, 1936, when he was being transported to the Jefferson County Jail. For this he has been sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary. There is no question that this was a criminal act and that he was guilty as charged. Accordingly, in whatever adjustments might be made concerning these cases in the future, his should be considered separately from the rest.

As for the other four under conviction, the varied sentences imposed and the fact that the rape charges were dropped against the other five defendants clearly call for adjustments. Either all nine Negroes were guilty, or none was. Since there was so much doubt of their guilt that the assault charges were nol prossed in five of the cases, it would hardly be fair to let the sentences stand as they are.

In the case of Clarence Norris, sentenced to be executed, there is assurance, apparently, that the death sentence will be commuted. Another defendant, Andy Wright is under sentence of 99 years. Two others, Heywood Patterson and Charlie Weems, are under sentence of 75 years.

Thus, while the Scottsboro trials are ended, there remain further questions for consideration. The responsibility for the adjustment and disposition of the cases under conviction rests on the governor. Since the governor doubtless knew of the disposition that was to be made of the cases in court, whether or not he gave his own sanction to the arrangement, he must surely be contemplating an exercise of clemency powers which as nearly as possible will prevent undue punishment of some while others go free. This paper believes that the governor can be trusted to deal wisely with these convictions.

What the state officials in charge of the prosecution have done should be accepted by all Alabamians, and the state's course upheld by public opinion, regardless of individual feelings concerning the question of guilt or innocence. For let everyone remember that whatever may have been his opinion about the Scottsboro case, he could not be sure that there was any foundation for his opinion.

And whatever the governor may do in adjusting the sentences of those under conviction, it should likewise be accepted by all Alabamians. The final responsibility in this will be solely the governor's. The public should realize that, in the circumstances, the governor will be closer to the subject and will have a fuller knowledge of all its aspects than any other person. Whatever he sees fit to do, we may all be sure, will be done in accordance with the best dictates of his judgment and conscience. Let us all trust the governor's conscience and judgment in this matter. Let us all abide by any decision he reaches in making adjustments.

The state's action in dropping these trials was one of high courage as well as of good sense. The officials responsible for the decision and any others who might have had a hand in bringing it about are to be highly commended. And if there are persons to whom this disposition of the Scottsboro case does not give satisfaction, they can at least take comfort in the fact that a great and troublesome burden has been lifted from Alabama.

Savannah, Ga. Times
July 27, 1937

SCOTTSBORO FINISH

We breathe a sigh of relief that the sixth trial of the Scottsboro case has finally ended. The final result was, the condemnation to death of one, the conviction of four to terms equivalent to life, and the release of four. This trial dragged on too long, and the entire country finally tired of the spectacularism that was displayed by both sides. There has always been a doubt in the minds of many people as to the truth of the charges against these negroes, and this growing feeling is undoubtedly what led the court to drop the case against the final four.

We trust that some compromise will be worked out even in the case of the five that have been convicted, in order that this entire sordid mess can be forgotten and put behind us. Despite the many lurid pictures that are painted in Northern sections against the South and its tendency for lynch law, the fact that these men were tried six times, and no violence was visited on them shows that law and order can be enforced in any community if the authorities are so minded. The feeling against these negroes was high, and the slurs that their attorney made on the community in which they were tried inflamed this feeling even ore but despite these facts, the trials were orderly and these men lived for six years while the cases were being fought in every court in the land.

The regard of the people of Alabama for law, and their determination to see the law prevail should inspire weak knee officials in other sections to prevent lynching of persons in their custody. If law and order could be preserved in this most trying ordeal there is no reason why other communities should not likewise restrain themselves even in the face of the most revolting situations.

Anniston, Ala. Star
August 1, 1937

Leibowitz Throws His Hat

Samuel Leibowitz, the protector of the infamous Scottsboro boys, was in his glory last week when he arrived in New York with four of the boys that had been acquitted in the last episode of this sickening drama. He was met at the station by hundreds of Harlemites and as he

alighted from the train he poked the lid out of his straw hat, threw it into the air and exclaimed: "There goes the grime of Alabama."

Although Mr. Leibowitz claims that there will be no exploitation of the boys in Alabama, arrangements had been made when he arrived for a big celebration at the Hippodrome and we may take with a grain of salt any statement he may make, as this case has been one of the greatest assets of this notorious publicity seeker for seven years. Already the boys have been dolled up in New York finery and Leibowitz will not quickly allow them to be forgotten, as the red organizations of the metropolis have been putting up too much money to feed his kitty.

In so far as Alabama is concerned, it is to be hoped that every effort will be made to settle the cases against the remaining culprits and allow us to forget once and for all time this nauseating case.

Bluefield, W. Va., Sunset News
July 28, 1937

SCOTTSBORO

HOPING to be done with the Scottsboro case, Alabama has abruptly freed four of the nine defendants. It is predicted that the governor will commute the single death sentence now standing, if no appeals are taken in behalf of the five other Negroes.

The Sunset News has expressed its opinions before on this case. We have never felt that the Scottsboro boys were guilty of the charges against them. We have talked with Alabamans who, while not upholding the defendants, declared the boys should not be "put to death on what that one woman says." The following editorial comment from the Washington *Post* represents our view of the case at this time:

> The six-and-a-half year rape trial has done little to enchance the state's reputation. On the contrary, mention today of the name of Alabama raises all manner of unpleasant thoughts of injustice, blind prejudice and abject social failure. Ten times Alabama prosecutors rose in court with only the word of a female tramp to justify their demand for the lives of nine Negroes. Ten times Alabama juries acceded to the request, closing their eyes narrowly not only to competent medical testimony but—most important—to the oath of one of the women involved that the whole story of the attack on them was "framed."
>
> A more evident miscarriage of justice the nation has rarely witnessed.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
July 29, 1937

The bouncers in the night clubs are learning to do their stuff without even mussing the clothes of the drunks as they parade down the primrose path.

The Scottsboro case started in 1931 and New York gave the four freed negroes an ovation when the lawyer took them to the Grand Central for display or publicity.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
August 3, 1937

PATIENT UNDER FIRE.

During a month when freeing of four "Scottsboro case" defendants evoked expressions of gratification from newspapers, North and South, the flight of a prisoner from a Georgia chaingang to Massachusetts gave occasion for the censuring of a Southern State. Return of the Negro fugitive to Georgia was refused by the Governor of Massachusetts on the ground that evidence indicated the existence of brutality in Georgia penal institutions.

Time was when allegations of brutality and race persecution could stir a long and acrimonious controversy. There are signs now, however, that Georgia has become philosophical under attacks, if not quite reconciled to them. It is true that Governor Rivers protested that the remarks of Governor Hurley were "an indictment" of the people of a sovereign State, but in other portions his reply was softer. The suggestion was made that the Massachusetts Executive visit penal institutions in the South to see for himself, while one correspondent proposes that a new Oglethorpe liberate from Georgia jails all those prisoners who might want to become colonists near Boston.

Evidently strictures long continued have a disciplinary effect on their object comparable to that to be found in jail or gang. If the spirit isn't broken, the speech becomes more discreet. Only in Scottsboro is to be found evidence of sardonic amusement that "somebody else is gettin' it." Patient under the notoriety of a case dumped into its lap, Scottsboro watches Birmingham, object of excoriation by a national magazine, and the editor of the *Jackson County Sentinel* consoles his Birmingham neighbors with the remark:

> Hold your seats, boys, they hain't nothin' ye can do about it—you dirty, brow-beating, slave-holding Southern colonels, suh!

Perhaps Birmingham, too, will learn to be philosophical when the heat is turned on.

Washington, D. C. Post
July 30, 1937

The Scottsboro Case.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Among the editorials of your valuable paper dated Monday, July 26, was one entitled "The Scottsboro Case."

I am happy to say that in your fearless denouncement of the blind prejudice, shameless injustice, the crushing of truth and the enthronement of falsehood, in the unfair trials of the nine Negro youths in Alabama, you have expressed the sentiment of thousands of fair-minded people all over the world, of all races and creeds.

Congratulations to you on the heroic stand that you have taken for right. SARAH E. LAWTON.
Washington, July 27.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: If the prosecuting witness in the Scottsboro case was a "tramp," the Hoover administration, which brought 15,000,000 Americans to the verge of starvation in the midst of plenty, made her so. Alabama never sank so low. G. G. MOORE.
Washington, July 26.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: I have read your splendid editorial of July 26 and wish to commend you for your earnest and frank advocacy of justice and freedom in the case of the Scottsboro victims. You deserve the loyal support of all liberty-loving Americans.

May you continue to have the courage to cry out against the miscarriage of justice whenever and wherever it prevails.

(Mrs.) ANITA F. LeMON.
Washington, July 26.

SCOTTSBORO 'BOYS' TAKE TO THE STAGE

Four of Them, With Natty New Clothes and Shining Hair, Ready for Harlem Debut

TO RE-ENACT COURT SCENE

Youths Decide, Over Objection of Leibowitz, That They Are Career Men Now

Four completely transformed Scottsboro boys, speechless in new clothes, with their hair slicked to a bright polish—two of them even sporting canes—admitted yesterday that they were going on the stage.

No longer the cringing, despairing youths who stared from Alabama prison cells, they announced they were taking the step against the advice of Samuel Leibowitz, who was their lawyer.

Olen Montgomery, peering from behind thick-lensed glasses, mumbled that he felt that since he was free he would be his "own man" (meaning his own master) in deciding on a career. The others echoed that sentiment.

They plunked one-finger tunes out of the piano in the parlor of the home of the Rev. Thomas S. Hartens at 443 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, smoked one cigarette after another and kept smoothing out their new suits and ties.

It seems they have tasted the wine of high living and feel they could stand lots more of it. They have been to Coney Island and to the big movie houses and have been lionized in various Negro homes in Brooklyn and in Harlem.

Mr. Harten, explaining why he thought it best to find them some kind of work, said it is his philosophy that "an idle head is the devil's workshop." He is a bit afraid, though, that, unless they are properly supervised, the boys might get into trouble.

The four—Montgomery, Eugene Williams, Willie Roberson and Roy Wright—are to appear in a show in a Harlem theatre. They will have parts in a re-enactment of the court scene in the hour of their release.

Monte Hawley, a Negro player, will act as the lawyer. At the theatre last night it was said the actor who will play the role of the presiding judge will probably be a white man, but that had not been decided.

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DAY BY DAY

WITH WILLIAM N. JONES

Scottsboro Development.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE to interpret the developments in the Scottsboro case in favor of the boys in the fateful international [illegible] terms and death sentences while four go free.

One thing stands out, however, and that is the belief in the innocence of all the youths will be more firmly established throughout the world.

For the guilt of the convicted boys rests upon the evidence given by Victoria Price as the guilt of the four boys which the State of Alabama set free evidently upon a premise of innocence, or the theory that, even if they committed any crime they did not deserve further punishment.

Perhaps the real explanation is that Alabama has been beaten in her holy war to send these boys to the electric chair in retaliation for what she called outside interference with her right to administer justice or injustice according to the good old Dixie tradition.

For this vindictive war has cost that State not only thousands in dollars, but has pilloried it as the classical example of color prejudice, human barbarism, prostituted criminal justice and reactionary ignorance of all spots in these United States in the eyes of the civilized world.

* * *

Has Alabama Changed?

STILL ANOTHER viewpoint of interpretation is possible, however. The action of the State's attorney in setting the four boys free may indicate that something has happened to public sentiment in Alabama. For ambitious State's attorneys in this Southern State would not take such a chance. It would seem to many, in the face of the old traditional dynamics of public opinion.

This viewpoint is weakened by the death sentence and long sentences for the other unfortunate youths. It is also possible that the State's attorney considered the matter of balance of account and could well afford to rest his laurels on the impressive sentences already meted out and plead that he was saving the State further cost.

Whatever the interpretation, another chapter has ended in this celebrated case. Perhaps another important chapter begins.

* * *

Kink Is Still There.

FOR THERE REMAINS the long prison terms and death sentence for five boys believed to be innocent. The fight for them cannot be abandoned.

Alabama has failed to respond to any appeal of ethics, fair play, Christianity, or civic honesty in this matter. The grim fight to eradicate the basic injustice behind this case is far from being won anywhere in the South.

This kink in American democracy is still there, and the work of straightening it out is still enough to tax the best efforts of white and colored Americans who believe that this great country can yet be a "land of the free and home of the brave."

No doubt the International Labor Defense, which lifted this case into the limelight of world attention, will again take up the cudgels and carry on. No doubt all of those organizations and forces which helped the fight against this injustice will also renew the fight.

* * *

What of the Future?

THEN THERE ARE the four freed boys. Caught up as they were in this maelstrom of important human events they have become more than mere human beings. In their experiences they have been charged with dynamic possibilities out of all proportion to their humble place in this maladjusted economic and social fabric.

Released in the right way, their tragic experiences may become blasting dynamite in the cause of liberty or they may be used in a cheap effort at personal gain for themselves or by others.

Then there is Ruby Bates and Victoria Price. Perhaps they should not be mentioned in the same breath, for nobody could have looked on that dramatic moment in the first Decatur trial, as did this writer, when Ruby and Victoria sat on the same witness stand and testified for and against these boys.

It was the first time in the history of the South that a white girl had under similar circumstances, and in a world-famous case, so blasted the testimony in a rape case.

What is yet before Ruby Bates, now a crusader in the case of human justice? What will be the future of Victoria Price?

All of these are dynamic questions which may some day be answered by important events in the history of this country.

For the present, at least, let no fair-minded American, no colored American least of all, forget for a moment that the Scottsboro case still lives, and that the fight around it is the eternal fight against racial discrimination which far transcends in importance the immediate fate of the nine boys, as grave and as appealing as their fate may be.

Okeechobee, Fla., News
July 30, 1937

YOU'RE WELCOME

(By L. S. Turbyfill

According to press radio news a few thosand New Yorkers gave four of the nine black brutes that attacked a couple of young white women and abused them shamefully a few years ago upon in Alabama, a hilarious welcome. Likewise their emancipator, the notable criminal lawyer Samuel Leibowitz who came down to that state and pulled these demons from under the justice of the Alabama courts. In addition to their crime they must have cost the taxpayers of that state a pretty sum during their incarceration and court trials in which they were found guilty repeatedly, yet when this emancipator got on the job he succeeded in freeing them and took them to New York where they apearantly are wanted. We don't know what for, but, if it's to perform such crime as they did in Alabama, then, they have a quartet of well qualified and efficient performers for the job. Fortunately the country—especially the South—has but few of this type of colored gentlemen, and Alabama and the South have good reason to be thankful to Mr. Leibowitz for taking them away and this is hoping they never come back. Such efficiency as these blacks exhibited is not desired here. Furthermore, such performances are forbidden by the better class of their own race. Th negro of the South deservedly rates a better name than he is usually credited with. The truth is a majority of our group of negro population bear a record of good behavior and citizenship.

They are making use of their equal privilege of enjoying the rights and opportunities of any other American citizen. They are recognized for their ambition to keep pace with progress. They have an equal share of public utilities and service, such as highways, schools, etc. Their schools are segregated from the whites. The better class negro appreciates the difference in races. They don't expect epuality in society — they've got better sense.

The better class of negro respects his white neighbor, puts confidence in him, remains loyal so long as the white man conducts himself honorably.

Likewise, the white people appreciate the negro so long as he stays in his place. The white people rely upon the services of the negro, pays him liberally for his services and willingly shares with him the conveniences of comfortable living.

The fact is, the betters of both races are harmonious and fair with each other, but that type of black that received a hilarious welcome from a New York contingent is not welcome down here. This fact should be well understood. New York can have all of this class of colored gentlemen. Neither is the type of their emancipator.

Only recently the Governor of Florida used every means at his disposal to protect one of those demons while on trial for one of the most henious crimes ever committed in our fair state. In this case justice prevailed promptly and this brute was disposed of to the safety of society.

Our courts provide ample protection to the law abiding class but, too often, as in the Alabama case, justice is defeated by employing talent void of principle. This is an old time-tried subject that needs correction in order that violence might be eliminated. But so long as examples of the kind that affords material for this comment are prevelant, there is little hope that lynchings will cease.

It's easy for people afar off from the location of crimes like those nine blacks committed, to condemn violence, but should a thing like that occur to them in their family or even occur in their community, how diferent would be the sentiment!

Most of our law enforcement officials condemn violence, but they

this type
color or
them in
d honor
sposition,
You're
you are welcome to all of this
of brutes, regardless of color or
race. They are yours; place them in
some lucrative position and honor
them for their fiendish disposition,
but be sure to keep them. You're
welcome.

are rendered helpless to avoid it in
cases where the temper of people
is overcharged by such devilish
crimes as come to their door or that
of their neighbor.

So, we say again, New Yorkers

Alabama Madness

THE decision of the "Scottsboro Case" prosecution staff dismissing charges of rape against five of the defendants leaves that celebrated chapter of southern jurisprudence in a state of unholy contradiction.

After six and a half years, four of the boys are now under sentences ranging from fifty years in prison to death in the electric chair on counts of verdicts brought in by as many separate juries. The paradox becomes weird when it is considered that no two of the four verdicts recommend the same penalty. The rape charge against Ozzie Powell, formerly convicted, was dropped and he was given 20 years on a charge of assaulting an officer with intent to kill.

These sentences, including the death decree for Clarence Norris, were based on the accusation of Victoria Price that she and Ruby Bates were criminally attacked on a freight gondola by ALL NINE of the defendants. This account, told at the original 'trial,' and corroborated by Ruby Bates, brought sentences of death in the electric chair to all nine of the boys.

Although Judge W. W. Callahan warned Attorney Leibowitz that his efforts to show that Mrs. Price had perjured the evidence would land him in serious trouble, the court's theory that circumstances in the evidence did not justify the claim of perjury, will stand examination.

Ruby Bates repudiated the accusation. Lester Carter, white companion of the two women, and star witness for the State in earlier trials, repudiated the accusation. Expert testimony of physicians who examined the women contradicted their claim that they had been assaulted.

Then came the State's own agents, the legal prosecutors—who knew the truth in the case better than anyone else, save the complaining witness herself—with another repudiation of Mrs. Price's testimony as it affected the five boys. They virtually admitted that, as to the four released, and one imprisoned on another charge, that same evidence was not sufficient to justify a conviction.

If Mrs. Price's story as told the first time was true, then all nine of the boys were equally guilty and entitled to equal punishment. If she changed her story as it affected the four defendants now at liberty, she perjured her first testimony and her accusation, unsupported by other reliable testimony, ought not to have been accepted. Since the prosecutors finally admitted that her story was not adequate to convict five, then it was not adequate to convict any of the nine boys.

With the sole exception of Judge Horton's setting aside of the first verdict at Decatur, which resulted in his tragic elimination from the bench, the judicial machinery of the sovereign State of Alabama was seized with madness. The 'majesty of the law' was suspended; justice was sent on an enforced vacation; and hypocrisy, deception and innate prejudice were enthroned as judge, jury and executioner. The element of 'reasonable doubt' was ignored in the heat of passion and local prejudice.

The judicial conduct of Judge Callahan was not only reprehensible—he stained the Alabama judiciary with dishonor, and meted out a cruel injustice to white womanhood by placing the questionable character of Victoria Price on the same level with that of the daughters of Southern aristocracy.

The sentences given five of the boys reveal the stricken conscience of the State of Alabama trying to square itself, trying to save faces. This Alabama madness has lowered the prestige of American jurisprudence.

ATTACK CASE IS BACK IN GROOVE

Scottsboro Affair Appears Headed Again For U. S. Supreme Court

By United Press.

DECATUR, Aug. 30.—Alabama's Scottsboro cases today apparently were headed for a third airing before the United States Supreme Court, following denial Saturday by Judge W. W. Callahan of a defense plea for new trials for three of the Negro defendants.

Judge Callahan, in ruling out all four points upon which the defense based its motion for re-trials, charged that an agreement between defense and prosecution to appeal only one of the cases had been "thrown to the winds."

His charge brought an emphatic denial from Clarence Watts, Alabama member of the Negroes' counsel, and a threat that if such a pact had been made without his knowledge, he would withdraw from the cases.

Judge Callahan revealed that defense and prosecution had a "hard and fast" agreement not to appeal any sentence except that of Clarence Norris, who was ordered to die.

Attorney Watts sought new trials for Norris, Andy Wright, sentenced to 99 years, and Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years.

The state agreed under the terms of the agreement, Callahan said, to nol-pros charges against four of the nine defendants. The four were freed at the close of the trials here last month.

Watts announced Saturday following Callahan's denial of his new trial plea that he would appeal the three convictions to the Alabama Supreme Court. It was considered certain that an appeal would be carried to the U. S. Supreme Court if the state tribunal acts unfavorably on the defense motion.

Boeing has now built a bomber even larger than the YB-17, sometimes called the "flying fortress." This new ship weighs 20 tons, is called the XB-15, is about the same size but has more comfortable living quarters for the crew.

Watts Resigns As Defense In Scottsboro Case

Counsel Out After Judge Reveals Leibowitz-State Agreement

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., Sept. 1.—(AP)—Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, associate "Scottsboro" defense counsel, stated tonight his services in this six-year-old gang attack case were at an end.

When Judge W. W. Callahan revealed officially at Decatur last Saturday that the defense and State entered an "ironclad agreement" in July to end the case "for good," Watts announced he would withdraw from the defense, "if such an agreement was entered into."

The attorney was ill when the "agreement" ended a new series of trials at Decatur July 24, and four of the nine negroes accused of assaulting two young white women were released.

In stating his work in the case was done, Watts said his firm simply had completed what it was employed to do. He said he accepted Callahan's statement about the agreement, but the attorney did not directly say the agreement was responsible for termination of his services.

Upon denying new trials for three of the five defendants still under sentence, on a petition presented by Watts, Judge Callahan last Saturday, cited the "hard and fast agreement" which, he said, provided if the State would waive capital punishment in remaining cases and release four of the nine original defendants, no appeals would be taken of the other cases, except in that of Clarence Norris, the one negro under a death sentence.

"The whole case was closed under the agreement I just stated," the judge said, adding: "I know of no way to enforce it, however."

Appeals Are Filed In Scottsboro Case

DECATUR, ALA., Sept. 17.—(AP)—Convictions of negro defendants in the "Scottsboro Case" were appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court today, the fourth time since the alleged assault of two white women in 1931.

Notice of appeals in the cases of Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years, and Andy Wright, given 99 years, was received by the circuit clerk. Notice of appeal for Clarence Norris, sentenced to the electric chair this Summer, was filed when he was sentenced.

The case of Heywood Patterson, the fourth negro under sentence, who was given 75 years, has been appealed to the United States Supreme Court for the third time. The State court upheld Patterson's sentence.

One other negro, Ozie Powell, is serving 20 years for assault on a deputy sheriff in an escape attempt. Mass attack charges against Powell and four others were dropped this Summer. The four were freed. The State court has upheld "Scottsboro" case convictions three times in the past.

TWO NEGROES FILE APPEALS

Scottsboro Defendants Seek New Trials In Latest Maneuver

By United Press.

DECATUR, Sept. 17.—Defense attorneys today filed formal notice of appeal for Charlie Weems and Andy Wright, Negro Scottsboro defendants convicted on criminal assault charges at the July term of Morgan Circuit Court.

Appeal notice was filed by Attorneys Samuel Leibowitz and Osborne K. Pankal of New York. Wright was sentenced to 99 years in prison, Weems to 75.

New trails for Weems, Wright and Clarence Norris, sentenced to death on the same charges, were denied by Trial Judge W. W. Callahan last month.

Norris' execution has been stayed by appeal notice. A 75-year sentence given Heywood Patterson, another of the defendants, has been appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Four of nine Negroes accused of a mass attack on two white women in March, 1931, were released at the conclusion of the July trials here. A fifth defendant, Ozie Powell, was sentenced to 20 years for stabbing a deputy.

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U. S. SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO REVIEW SCOTTSBORO CASE

Athens, Ala., Courier
October 28, 1937

Negroes' Lawyers Say They Have Another Plan In Reserve

The Supreme Court, after twice saving him from death, refused Monday to interfere with a 75-year prison sentence imposed in 1936 on Haywood Patterson, one of nine negroes who figured in the Scottsboro case.

In asking the court to review his conviction, Patterson contended it was impossible to obtain a fair trial in Morgan County, Alabama. He was found guilty of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, a white woman, in a freight train near Scottsboro in 1931.

Justice Hugo L. Black did not porticipate in the decision. There had been some talk among observers that if he did participate, the decision might be challenged because of his former membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

In New York, Samuel Liebowitz, counsel for Patterson and the other negroes, received news of the court's action with the comment "We're not licked yet. We have a definite plan for new action and we will start working on it immediately." He did not divulge the plan.

Patterson and the others escaped the death penalty in 1932 when the high tribunal ruled they had not been adequately hepresented by counsel and set aside their conviction. Subsequently, in 1935, the court ordered a new trial because negroes had been systematically excluded from juries which had indicted and convicted Patterson and the other negroes. At the next trial Patterson was sentenced to prison.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
October 26, 1937

Congratulations

The United States supreme court has declined to review the conviction of Haywood Patterson, convicted in connection with the Scottsboro trials, thus ending the litigation so far as that particular case is concerned.

The court, by its decision, upholds the trial court, the Alabama supreme court and the prosecution in the famous trial and it is fitting that Judge Callahan, Attorney General Carmichael, Assistant Attorney General Lawson and Solicitor Hutson should be congratulated upon their vindication in the highest tribunal in the nation.

The decision of the supreme court not to review the Patterson case, as we understand it, means that the court did not find any reason for interference with the proceedure in the Alabama courts; that no constitutional rights had been denied the defendant.

What effect this decision will have on subsequent cases which may be appealed to the supreme court, we have no way of knowing. The inference is strong, however, that the members of the court are convinced that in trials of the obnoxious litigation, the courts of Alabama have wrestled with the problem in an entirely legal manner and in accordance with the guarantees of the constitution of the United States.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
October 27, 1937

NEGRO TREATMENT IN SOUTH

People of the United States have been reading and hearing a great deal in recent years about the Scottsboro case in Alabama, about alleged unfairness in the trials of a group of negro defendants. Certain individuals who have interested themselves in the case would lead people to believe that the white people of the South are obsessed with the idea of ill-treatment of the black people in their midst.

These same individuals who strive so diligently to propagate the idea of ill-treatment and unfairness pass over the stories that tell of the high esteem and admiration that the white people have for members of the negro race who endear themselves to those with whom they deal by their exemplary conduct. One such noble character is described by The Birmingham News, which is convincing evidence that the Alabamians are not the heartless type that they have been pictured as being.

"Ed Wilson was just a negro janitor," says The News. "For 46 years he had kept clean the building and premises of the South Highlands Presbyterian Church. He was a menial performing a menial task.

"Ed Wilson died this week, died in the church he had served so long. And they buried him from that church. Its pews were crowded with members of his own race and by several hundred white persons. It was a moving service as white and black people joined in tribute to this humble janitor.

"Perhaps Ed Wilson had heard of the Scottsboro boys. Perhaps he knew of the sharecroppers on the plantations. But all this did not seem to matter much to him. Ed Wilson did well what fell to his hands to do, and whites and blacks buried him with the honors of a grateful admiration."

And such examples are not confined to Alabama. They are related from time to time from all points of the South. Here is another. This one from Florida, Tampa to be exact. The Tampa Tribune relates this story of a ceremony in that city recently.

"At the impressive ceremony Sunday in honor of the 24 Tampa young men who went down to death with the shattered U.S.S. Tampa," says The Tribune, "the roll was called of mothers of the victims of that war-time tragedy—those who were present at the exercises. When the names of the white mothers on the platform had been called and each had been given a floral remembrance, another name was called—that of the mother of E. D. Legree, a negro boy who was one of the 24. This mother came forth from the audience, and she too received a bouquet. She was asked to sit on the platform and modestly did so. The audience, largely white, burst into spontaneous applause.

"The incident was eloquent of a regard for patriotic service and sacrifice that is not limited by racial lines, by the color of the skin. That negro mother gave her boy as willingly, suffered his loss as keenly, as did any other mother who wears the gold star of a Nation's recognition and honor. It was to the credit of the directors of the program, of the Tampa audience, that they forgot the color line in tribute to those who died in action under the flag that flies for all Americans, of whatever creed or race."

Intelligent members of the negro race prefer life in the South to anywhere else in America because they know that here they are understood as nowhere else. They know that their best friends are to be found here, regardless of opinions that may be expressed to the contrary by troublemakers who project themselves into isolated controversies for the purpose of getting their names before the public. They satisfy an ego that can not find expression through legitimate and worthy channels.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
October 26, 1937

End Of Scottsboro Case?

Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Negroes involved in the famous "Scottsboro Case," lost in the Supreme Court yesterday in an effort to escape a seventy-five-year prison sentence imposed by Alabama Courts for an alleged attack on a white woman. The High Tribunal, which twice had saved Patterson from the death penalty, denied his petition for a review of his case.

Of the nine Negroes involved in this case four were recently released on condition that they leave Alabama and never return. Samuel Leibowitz, their leading lawyer, took them to New York City, where they were lionized in Harlem for a time. Whether he will succeed in having them learn useful trades, as he had planned to do, remains to be seen. Only one of the other five defendants in the noted case, we believe, is under sentence of death, and that sentence was imposed for a crime other than the alleged attack on a white woman or on two white women.

Possibly the action of the Supreme Court in denying Haywood Patterson's petition spells the end of the Scottsboro case. The public generally may hope so, although many believe the nine Negroes were falsely accused and should have been set at liberty long ago.

WHAT NEXT IN THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

THE DECISION of the U. S. Supreme Court not to again review the case of Heywood Patterson, sentenced to serve 75 years in the Alabama State Prison for an alleged attack on Victoria Price near Scottsboro, Ala., seems to have written "finis" to the famous Scottsboro case. For the court ruled that the state of Alabama had met previous objections of an unfair trial by placing Negroes on the jury panel that tried Patterson. The decision stated that the federal court could not interfere with the action of the state court on any other grounds.

It is very likely that a similar opinion will prevail in the cases of the other four Negroes convicted in the case. From all appearances, they are doomed to serve life imprisonment. But this does not have to follow. No state or individual can flout public opinion and if those who are interested in the case continue to arouse public opinion in the case, the Governor may be forced to exercise executive clemency.

Alabama is already sensative to criticism in this case as witness the action of the state in voluntarily releasing four of the nine defendants, and in the refusal of Justice Black to participate in the Supreme Court deliberations on the case. We don't know what further legal action can be taken, but we do know that through the medium of the press and other avenues of publicity, this case can be held up to the country and the world as a sample of the the kind of justice given Negroes in the South until Alabama and all southern states will be glad to hear the end of it.

Let those who are sincerely interested in seeing that Patterson and his associates get justice continue their mass protests until something is done to right the wrong that been done in this case.

The Dred Scott decision did not settle the question of slavery, it was so strongly against public opinion; neither did the Supreme Court's decision in the case of Tom Mooney end the fight for justice in his case. We as Negroes should see to it that this decision does not mark the end of the Scottsboro case, and continue the fight and urge friends of justice to fight until a complete victory is won.

Birmingham, Ala. News
October 27, 1937

The Disposition Of The Scottsboro Cases

The United States Supreme Court has denied the petition of Haywood Patterson, one of the defendants in the Scottsboro cases, for a writ of certiorari. Patterson's conviction, carrying a 75-year sentence, therefore stands. Presumably, this closes the door to further consideration by the Supreme Court of any of the four Scottsboro cases in which convictions have been obtained on the charge of rape. The state, in its reply to Patterson's petition, contended that all constitutional directions given by the Supreme Court in its previous opinions in the Scottsboro cases had been followed in the latest trials. Evidently the Supreme Court was satisfied that this was done.

This decision leaves strictly to the state the question of the disposition of the Scottsboro cases. As matters stand, four of the nine defendants have been freed. In reality, the rape charges against five of them were nol prossed, but one of the five is under sentence of 20 years for an attack upon a deputy sheriff. One of the four convicted of rape is under a death sentence, and the other three are under prison sentences ranging from 75 to 99 years.

Manifestly, this is not a satisfactory outcome, from the standpoint of evenhanded justice. In the circumstances, of course, justice could not be evenhanded in these nine cases. But it should be possible, by the exercise of clemency powers, to narrow the wide gap in a situation in which some go free while others, tried on the same charge, find themselves under sentences ranging from 75 years to the death penalty. Certainly the governor should commute the death sentence in the one case in which that penalty has been prescribed; and in all four cases under conviction on the rape charge he should, in view of the dubious nature of the whole proceedings, see to it that these men do not face the prospect of spending the rest of their lives in prison, while four of their fellow-defendants enjoy liberty.

Sylacauga, Ala., Advance
October 28, 1937

FREEING OF FIVE NEGROES ASKED

Scottsboro Decision Brings Plea Gelders To Governor Graves

With the U. S. Supreme Court refusing to review the latest conviction of Haywood Patterson, key defendant in the Scottsboro case. "It is now up to Governor Graves to free immediately all of the Scottsboro boys," Joseph S. Gelders, Birmingham liberal, declared today.

Mr. Gelders, Southern representative of the National Committee for the defense of political prisoners, issued his statement from New York where he is visiting.

Five of the nine negroes originally charged with mass assaults on two white women in 1931 remain in prison, the four others having been freed by the state last Summer. One of the five in prison, however, has been freed of rape charges but is serving 20 years for knifing a deputy.

Mr. Gelder's statement declared: "Since the state of Alabama itself nol prossed the cases against four of the Scottsbor defendants and released them, no one with real knowledge of the case believes any of the boys guilty.

"The people of the United States will not be satisfied with the decision of the Supreme Court upholding the prejudiced verdicts in the Scottsboro cases. Even the people of Alabama have on the whole, become convinced the defendants are not guilty."

Gifford Cochran, New York, secretary of the national committee, issued a statement terming the Supreme Court action "a bitter disappointment and a shock to every person in Alabama and in the world who believes that the Scottsboro defendants should receive justice."

Scottsboro case

"HAYWOOD PATTERSON, petr., v. State of Alabama. Petition for writ of cert. to the Supreme Court of Alabama denied. Justice Black took no part in the consideration and decision of this application."

Thus tersely the United States Supreme Court last week refused to review the latest appeal in the Scottsboro case. Three times sentenced to death since that day of March 25, 1931, when he, with eight other Negro youths, was accused of rape, and three times granted new trials, Patterson now must serve seventy-five years in jail. The Supreme Court, which twice overruled convictions on technical grounds, declines to consider his charges that he was deprived of a fair trial by refusal to shift the case to another court and by a judge's charge to a jury.

Since Justice Black did not participate in the decision, his former Klan connection cannot be brought into the case.

The ledger now reads: four of the nine boys free, one jailed for 20 years for stabbing a prison guard, four convicted of rape. Two of the convicted will serve 75 years, one 99, and one is sentenced to die. While Samuel Liebowitz, chief defense counsel, was meditating new action last week, the Rev. Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, declared: "The decision of the United States Supreme Court apparently closes out further legal action in the case of Haywood Patterson. It does not settle the matter of justice."

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THE SCOTTSBORO CASE.

ALABAMA COURTS STILL BLOOD-THIRSTY.

A living death of 99 years' imprisonment in Alabama penitentiaries was imposed by an all-white Morgan County jury on Andy Wright, second of the innocent Scottsboro boys to go on trial here.

Judge W. W. "Speed" Callaham at once imposed sentence on Wright and immediately afterward sentenced Clarence Norris to die in the electric chair on September 24. Before adjourning court, the judge set in motion the machinery for the trial of the third boy, Charlie Weems, in keeping with the clock-work schedule he had earlier announced for the trials.

9-18-37

Not Justice, Boys Declare.—Norris was the first of the boys to be tried and was given the death sentence by another jury of Morgan County whites who seem agreed, almost to a man, to uphold the six-year-old conspiracy to legally lynch the nine youths and indict the Negro people, in accordance with Judge Callahan's slanderous charge to the first jury, as a race of rapists.

The death sentence was stayed automatically by notice of appeal filed by Samuel Leibowitz, New York Attorney and head of defence counsel. Leibowitz said the cases would be "appealed, appealed and appealed."

The nine youths have spent their teen years in Alabama prisons following their arrest in March, 1931, on the trumped-up charge of "raping" two white women who were hoboing on a freight train between Chattanooga, Tenn., and Paint Rock, Alabama.

"I didn't get justice," Andy Wright fearlessly told Judge Callahan as he stood at attention to hear his sentence.

"I didn't get justice," he repeated, after the judge, addressing him familiarly by his first name in accordance with the Southern tradition, asked him if he had anything to say before sentence was passed on him.

Norris also fearlessly threw at the court his indictment of Southern "justice."

"They did't find me guilty," he declared. "They thought they found me guilty. I am charged with a crime I never thought of or committed." His voice was clear and unafraid.

Neither of the boys had the ghost of a chance in the prejudice-filled court.

Judge's Charge Biased. In his charge to the jury, Judge Callahan dwelt for forty-eight minutes upon the State's case without mentioning reasonable doubt or the possibility of acquittal. Not once did the judge mention the testimony of the late Dr. R. R. Bridges, which was read into the record by the defence.

Dr. Bridges, who examined Victoria Price and Ruby Bates less than two hours after the alleged attack, testified for the State at earlier trials before Judges James E. Horton and Callahan that he observed no cuts on Victoria Price, such as she has testified she received. Her pulse and respiration were quite normal, the white Alabama physician testified.

Ruby Bates, the other girl, repudiated her testimony against the boys in 1933 and testified that the nine boys had not even touched her or Victoria Price and that the charge of "rape" was concocted by Alabama officials.

The court charged the jurors that if they believed the boys conspired to attack the girls or that the defendant was present at the scene of the crime, he was guilty even though he had not lifted a finger against the girls.

Defence Hits Judge's Charge.—It was only toward the end of his charge to the jury that Callahan dealt briefly with some of the evidence produced by the defence, and told the jurors they could acquit if they "believed that evidence" and then warned them against returning a verdict of death in the case of Wright.

Callahan immediately proceeded to nullify in the minds of the jurors any impression that might have been created by his belated reference to defence evidence with the statement that the jury should consider if the alleged attack was a case of an "aggravated conscious mass rape."

Jury Ignored Evidence.—Leibowitz took exception to the entire charge of Judge Callahan to the jury. This was the first time defence attorneys took this step on the entire charge of the judge.

"I except to the entire charge," the defence said, "on the ground that the court unduly stressed all the testimony of the prosecution and its corroborating evidence without at the same time referring to the defendant's testimony, especially that of Dr. Bridges."

Leibowitz added that a "fair and just trial was impossible in this court room" and that "the defendants' rights as guaranteed by the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution were violated."

John T. Cooper, jury foreman, told reporters that the jury had not even debated the guilt or innocence of the defendant, Andy Wright, but had spent three and a half hours determining whether to set sentence at 75 or 99 years. The delay in reporting the verdict was caused by one man, who held out for a time for a seventy-five years' sentence.

Wright's trial was the tenth that has been held since the boys were taken off a freight train at Paint Rock, Alabama and made the victims of a ghastly frame-up.

One jury at the original Scottsboro trials disagreed in the case of Roy Wright, then 13 years of age, another here returned a seventy-five years' sentence at Heywood Patterson's fourth trial, and in Wright's case, the State waived the death penalty. All the other verdicts have carried death sentences.

Scottsboro Boys Framed, Ruby Bates Again Tells America.—Ruby Bates, one-time prosecuting witness in the celebrated Scottsboro case, told again this week the story of the notorious frame-up of the nine boys as she learned of the sentence of death imposed upon Clarence Norris, by an all-white Morgan County, Alabama jury.

"The nine boys are innocent," the young woman said, repeating the recantation made in an Alabama courtroom in the spring of 1933. "They were found guilty by white juries who with Judge Callahan and the prosecution wanted to kill them in order to save, so they say, white womanhood of the South.

"Neither Norris nor any other of the nine Negro boys touched me or Victoria Price during that freight train ride on March 25, 1931. I exposed the whole framed-up in the Decatur trial in 1933. I would have been glad to testify in Norris's trial this time but neither side called me. Should the defence ask me to testify in any of the coming trials, I would gladly do so."

The present indictment under which the boys are being tried is based on the unsupported charge of Victoria Price that she was "rapped" by the nine boys.

The boys will never get a fair trial as long as they are tried before Judge Callahan" Miss Bates continued. "This last hearing was the same as all the others—the same lynch spirit whipped up by the Scottsboro papers, and the same feeling on the part of the jurors.

"But the worst of all was, Victoria Price. According to the newspapers, she has told a different lie every time she testified.

"She is still testifying againt the boys because she is a disreputable character who is disliked by every one around her except those who are also disreputable. I believe she is being paid or given jobs where others could not receive jobs."

Miss Bates, who was employed until recently on a W.P.A. sewing project, was among the thousands who received pink slips in the recent mass firing of W.P.A. workers.

Harlem Protests Verdicts.—Vigorous protests against the barbarous verdicts against Clarence Norris and Andy Wright, first two of the Scottsboro boys to be tried in Decature, Alabama, were made at scores of open air meetings held throughout Harlem. Most of the rallies were held under the auspices of the Harlem International Labor Defence and the Harlem Division of the Communist Party.

The Scottsboro Defence Committee, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, issued an appeal for funds to appeal the cases and at the same time spiked persistent rumors, generally considered harmful to the defence, that a compromise was imminent in the six-year old fight for the lives and freedom of the Scottsboro defendants.

"Because of repeated rumors that the cases of the Scottsboro Defence Committee affirms that it is not party to any compromise agreement whatsoever," the statement said. "The committee under no circumstances will surrender the rights of the defendants. It will continue the legal battle in the courts until every recourse is exhausted.

The committee is wholly convinced of the complete innocence of all the nine boys on the basis of the original evidence and the opinion of the trial judge James E. Horton.

Whether the present trials in Decatur result in long-prison sentences or death sentences the committee will prosecute appeals at once with vigour. "The basis for appeal to the Federal courts has already been laid."

Funds Needed at Once.—The National Association for the advancement of Colored People, one of the member organizations of the Scottsboro Defence Committee, called for a "united and unrelenting" fight for the freedom of the Scottsboro boys.

"The whole world is shocked at this verdict," said a statement issued by the Association, "and immediate steps must be taken to intensify the fight for the complete freedom of all nine defendants. The charge of Judge Callahan to the jury was his usual prejudiced statement. It shows that the Morgan County Court has no intention of administering justice to these youths. The defendants have been ordered to trial in machine-like fashion at the rate of two a week, further evidence that there is no desire to give justice, but to hustle the case through the courts.

"We urge every person who loves justice and liberty to send a contribution to the Scottsboro Defence Committee, 112 East 19th Street, New York City. The Defence is in desperate need of funds. We have a long, hard bitter battle before us in which nothing must stand in the way of complete vindication and acquittal.—*Crusader News Agency*, New York.

Scottsboro Drive Pushed By Harlem C.P.

Supreme Court Decision Condemned by Defense Committee

(Daily Worker Harlem Bureau)

The various units and branches of the Communist Party in Harlem are swinging into full action this week against the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in denying Haywood Patterson a new trial.

The Nat Turner Branch is holding an open air demonstration at 134th St. and Seventh Ave., tonight at 7 o'clock. Resolutions demanding a new trial for Patterson will be sent to the Alabama Supreme Court.

The conference called by the Harlem Scottsboro Defense Committee is urging all liberty-loving people and organizations to send the following telegram to President Roose-

WIRE TO ROOSEVELT

"We deplore the unjustifiable and un-American verdict of the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of Haywood Patterson, one of the five Scottsboro boys. It constitutes provocation of the judicial arm of the United States Government against the Negro people and condones legal lynching. We wholeheartedly support your Chicago speech calling for revision of foreign policy and condemning destroyers of peace and harmony between nations.

"We will render all aid to carry this into life, but revision of domestic policy toward Negro people is a necessary condition for its realization. We ask you as chief executive to raise your voice in this direction. We believe Scottsboro the most advantageous point of departure for such a declaration.

HIGH COURT DENIES SCOTTSBORO PLEA

Justice Black Fails To Participate in Decision on Patterson's Appeal.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—(AP)—The supreme court, after twice saving him from death, refused today to interfere with a 75-year prison term imposed in 1936 upon Haywood Patterson, one of nine negroes who figured in the Scottsboro case.

In asking the court to review his conviction, Patterson contended it was impossible to obtain a fair trial in Morgan county, Alabama. He was found guilty of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, a white woman, in a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931.

Justice Hugo L. Black did not participate in the decision. There had been some talk among observers that, if he did participate, the decision might be challenged because of his former membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

In New York, Samuel Leibowitz, counsel for Patterson and the other negroes, received news of the court's action with the comment: "We're not licked yet. We have a definite plan for new action, and we will start working on it immediately." He did not divulge the plan.

HIGH COURT WEIGHS SCOTTSBORO CASE

Patterson's Plea for Review of 75-Year Sentence May Bring Challenge to Black

28 PETITIONS CONSIDERED

One Is Appeal to Stop $2,852,000 WPA Aid for a Power Plant —Rulings Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23 (AP).—The Supreme Court Justices assembled today to decide whether to review the conviction of Haywood Patterson, one of the Negroes involved in the famous Scottsboro, Ala., cases.

Some observers expressed the belief this litigation might provide a basis for challenging any participation by Justice Black, who at one time was a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Justice Black denied in his recent radio address, however, he had any prejudice against Negroes.

One challenge of Justice Black's participation in litigation already has been promised. It resulted from the court's refusal last Monday to interfere with a lower court ruling that the Securities Commission could subpoena telegrams sent and received by three Florida companies.

While chairman of the Senate Lobby Committee, the new justice utilized telegrams obtained by the Communications Commission from persons under investigation.

Twenty-eight petitions, including Patterson's, were placed before the justices at their weekly conference. Whether the appeals will be heard in open court will be announced Monday.

Patterson was sentenced to serve seventy-five years in prison after his conviction of attacking a white woman on a moving freight train near Scottsboro in March, 1931.

The Supreme Court has saved him twice from the death penalty by ordering new trials. It held in 1932 that he and other defendants had not been provided with adequate counsel. Three years later it ruled that Negroes had been "systematically excluded" from the juries which indicted and convicted him.

At the third trial he escaped a death sentence but drew a seventy-five-year prison term.

Other litigation before the justices included:

An appeal by the Duke Power Company in an attempt to prevent the Public Works Administration from making a $,852,000 loan and grant to Greenwood County, S. C., for an electric plant at Buzzard Roost. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the government. The Supreme Court already has agreed to review similar litigation brought by the Alabama Power Company.

An attack by South Bend, Ind., on constitutionality of a 1933 State law under which a tax was imposed on its municipally owned water plant. The Indiana Supreme Court sustained the assessment.

Patterson Gets First Rebuff In Supreme Court

Scottsboro Appeal Lost, Justice Black Taking No Part In Decision

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In New York, Samuel Leibowitz, counsel for Patterson and the other negroes, received news of the court's action with the comment: "We're not licked yet. We have a definite plan for new action, and we will start working on it immediately." He did not divulge the plan.

Patterson and the others escaped the death penalty in 1932 when the high tribunal ruled they had not been adequately represented by counsel and set aside their conviction. Subsequently, in 1935, the court ordered a new trial because negroes had been "systematically excluded" from juries which had indicted and convicted Patterson and the other negroes. At the next trial, Patterson was sentenced to prison.

Of the other defendants, one had been sentenced to death, four spent six years in prison and then had charges against them dropped, and the remainder were sentenced to prison.

cisive victory by the courts of the State of Alabama in the disposition of these cases that have been pending for more than seven years.

Two previous appeals to the nation's highest tribunal have resulted in reversals of the judgments of the State courts and the ordering of new trials. Last June, the Supreme Court of Alabama, for the third time, affirmed a conviction judgment by a trial court in the case of Patterson, the opinion of the high court in the case being written by Justice William H. Thomas.

According to advice received at the office of Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court yesterday, denying Patterson's petition of appeal, held that no federal question of sufficient importance for that Court to take jurisdiction of it was presented in the case. That holding, it is understood, disposes of all federal questions that defense counsel had given notice would be raised while Patterson's trial was in progress and after sentence of 75 years imprisonment had been imposed.

Asked if he had any statement to make regarding the Patterson decision, following its announcement in Washington, Atty. Gen. Carmichael said: "The decision speaks for itself. I do not feel that any statement from this office is necessary." The Attorney General declined to comment on a statement issued in New York by Samuel S. Leibowitz, principal defense counsel.

What, if any effect yesterday's decision will have on the appeals filed in the State Supreme Court on behalf of three of Patterson's co-defendants, Clarence Norris, Andy Wright and Charlie Weems, was not clear last night. Their withdrawal, however, appeared unlikely in view of the announcement by Liebowitz of a new plan of defense action. Norris is under sentence of death, and Wright and Weems 99 and 75 years imprisonment, respectively. Another defendant, Ozie Powell, is serving a prison sentence of 20 years, imposed when he pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting to murder a deputy sheriff.

Before accepting the decision just rendered as final Liebowitz may, if he so desires, it was learned, file application for rehearing with the U. S. Supreme Court in the Patterson case.

If, on the other hand, defense counsel should elect to accept the Patterson decision as final and decide to withdraw the appeals pending in the State Supreme Court in the three companion cases, it is believed Gov. Graves would, in view of the fact that Norris is the only one of the defendants convicted at the last trials to be sentenced to death, commute the death sentence to life imprisonment.

A "Travesty"

THE DECISION of the Supreme Court in refusing to review Heywood Patterson's case with Justice Black abstaining is another blot upon the "Nine Old Men." There is no way for any court upon the basis of law, let alone liberty and justice, to render such a decision. Therefore, by this decision our highest tribunal has disregarded law, mocked liberty and made a travesty of justice.

A man is entitled to a fair trial in America, but no man could receive a fair trial after the charge to the jury made by Judge Callahan in Decatur. Furthermore, how could Patterson and the other boys be judged guilty when after several trials the state has just released four of them, claiming that they were innocent. The testimony of the state's star witness, Virginia Price, must be accepted or refused for all nine. The Supreme Court has gone back into its reactionary past. Justice Black has made a sad beginning and this decision proves him for what he is. It was an easy job for Mr. Black to find a robe for the Supreme Court. All he had to do was to dye his white one black. Why did he abstain in the Patterson decision? The law says that a judge may abstain when he is liable to any type of prejudice that will influence the decision. The only prejudice that Mr. Black possessed was that prejudice we have always accused him of: That of belonging to an organization whose avowed purpose is keeping the Negro down. This purpose was proven by Mr. Black in abstaining in the Patterson decision.

The fundamental reason for this latest development of the Scottsboro Case was due to one thing: The protest of the American masses were not vocal enough to make that Court realize that the Scottsboro boys must go free. Setting free four of the boys has flimflammed the average man of the streets. It behooves us, however, to realize that this was nothing more than a deal. We must not rest until all of the boys are free. Our only hope is that we can free them before the terrors of prison and warden have sent them to a premature death. If our protests become vocal enough the Supreme Court will review the case and Justice Black will vote. We must free the remaining Scottsboro boys.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

5622

50 HARLEM LEADERS
BACK PARLEY FOR
SCOTTSBORO BOYS

NEW YORK, Oct.--(CNA)- Endorsed by more than fifty Harlem leaders and organizations, a Call was issued here this week for a Harlem Scottsboro Defense Conference to be held Monday evening, October 25, at the St Philips Parish House, 213 West 133rd Street, this city.

Crusader News Agency —

The Call points out that "five innocent Scottsboro boys still languish in Alabama prison cells, their health broken by six and a half torturous years in the shadow of the electric chair. Despite their broken healthy, they are now being subjected to a fierce regime which menaces their very lives."

10-18-37 New York, Mg

Appeals for the boys, now before the United States Supreme Court, were opposed last week by the State of Alabama. In a brief filed with the court in connection with the appeal of Heywood Patterson, Alabama's Attorney General, A. A. Carmichael, contended that Patterson's rights were not jeopardized by refusal of Judge Callahan to permit a change of venue from prejudice-ridden Decatur, Ala.

The call for the Harlem conference decalres that the release several months ago of four of the Scottsboro defendants "is a clear admission by the state of Alabama of the innocence of ALL these boys and of the monstrous injustice perpetrated against them, beginning with the first frame-up, lynch-dominated trial at Scottsboro. For the testimony against all these boys is the same - only the perjured testimony of Victoria Price, herself convicted by the state of Alabama for 'public lewdness.'"

The call makes an appeal to "all justice loving organizations and persons to take an active part in this vital defense struggle" to free the remaining five imprisoned lads. "A powerful, united Scottsboro defense movement in Harlem will inspire like action throughout the country," it says.

Quickening the efforts of friends of the boys is the revelation, made by Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of Andy Wright, that the five imprisoned boys are still beingg terrorized in Alabama. Mrs. Wright was recently forced to make two hurried trips to Alabama to protest the ill-treatment of Andy and the other boys.

Many rallies are being held in Harlem and throughout the city in preparation for the Oct. 25 conference. A recent mass meeting at the Manhattan Opera House, 8th Avenue and 34th Street, was addressed by Mrs. Wright, Roy Wilkins, editor of The Crisis., the Rev. Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee; Richard B. Moore of the International Labor Defense., and Ruby Bates, chief defense witness.

Endorsers of the Oct. 25 conference include A. Philip Randolph, of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters., James E. Allen of the N. A. A. C. P., James H. Hubert, New York Urban League., Frank R. Crosswaith, Harlem Negro Labor Committee., Dr. Catherine B. Lealtad, National Negro Congress., Dr. P. M. H. Savory, United Aid for Peoples of African Descent., Donelan J. Phillips, Consolidated Tenants League., James N. Lynch, Hamilton Lodge G.U.O.O.F., Louise Thompson, International Workers Order., Naomi Davis, Harlem Cultural Ass'n., the Rev. Hale Bishop, St Philips P. E. Church., the Rev. J. K. Humphreys, Seventh Day Adventist Church, and many others.

Justice From Scottsboro

Negroes in the United States ought to be slow and careful in statements made by them regarding Mr. Justice Black, recently elevated to the Supreme Court of the United States. After listening to his radio talk last Friday evening we are inclined to believe that hereafter in his attitude and conduct towards submerged and minority groups, the new justice is going to lean over backwards to help them.

In Saturday night's forced confession of his previous Klan membership, the new supreme court justice unquestionably cut himself adrift from his blundering contacts of the past. His presence on the Supreme Court may prove an asset rather than a liability so far as Negroes are concerned.

We have read some of the comments made by critics of Justice Black's radio statement in which it is charged that he made no positive denunciation of the Klan, but if anyone familiar with the principles of the Klan can read Justice Black's utterance regarding intolerance and still say Justice Black has not publicly renounced the principles of the hooded empire, we are unable to understand them.

Here is what Justice Black said:

"During my recent absence on a short vacation abroad, a planned and concerted campaign was begun which fants the flames of prejudice and is calculated to create racil nd religious htred. If continued, the inevitable result will be the projection of religious beliefs into a position of prime importance in political campaigns and to reinfect our social and business life with the poison of religious bigotry.

It will bring the political religionist back into undeserved and perilous influence in affairs of government. It will elevate the least worthy to political positions because religion or race bars others from a password. It will resurrect practices and arguments from which this country suffered solely in the nineteen-twenties. It will revive the spirit which, in 1928, caused a national campaign to be waged largely upon issues unworthy of a free people. It will bankrupt many business men whose sole offense is that they have religious beliefs which do not accord with the prevailing religion in their communities.

"It will punish the professional man whose patients and clients boycott him, not because of lack of professional ability, but because there are in his locality few members of his faith or his race. It will again set neighbor against neighbor, and turn old friends into new enemies.

"To contribute my part in averting such a catastrophe in this land dedicated to tolerance and freedom, I break with precenedts of the past to talk with you tonight.

"An effort is being made to convince the people of America that I am intolerant, and that I am prejudiced against people of the Jewish and Catholic faiths, and against members of the Negro race. These insinuations are advanced despite the fact that, for the last 11 years, I have served in the Senate of the United States under constant and microscopic public scrutiny.

"My words and acts are a matter of public record. I believe that my record as a senator refutes every implication of racial or religious intolerance. It shows that I was of that group of liberal senators who have consistently fought for the civil, economic and religious rights of all Americans, without regard to race or creed."

There is some inconsistency to be discovered in this statement of the Alabamian. For instance, he is himself intolerant when he rebels against the pitiless publicity which forced the confession of his Klan membership. His statement Friday night is not to be identified as "honest" confession, which we understand is good for the soul, but "forced" confession, which we understand proves the good and value in a free press.

What we wish to point out is that in this forced confession, Justice Black has been compelled to take certain unquestionable and definite ground against bigotry and intolerance. His open, stated viewpoint regarding Jews Negroes and Catholics tags him in a way that he himself cannot forget, when in the silent temple of justice communing with his own soul.

While the statement lacked the courage and candor we would have written into it, we think it registers high, when we remember that it is the utterance of a man who comes from the valley of Scottsboro. If we have prepared the statement we would have perhaps more definitely defined the rights of Negro citizens than did Justice Black.

For instance, Justice Black says:

"I number among my friends many members of the colored race. I have watched the progress of its members with sympathy and admiration. Certainly they are entitled to the full measure of protection accorded to the citizenship of our country by our Constitution and our laws."

Now that is quite a general statement. Justice Black may or may not have meant this or that. It somewhat reminds us of the fellow who makes a political speech and says "Elect me and I'll do the right thing." But what is the right thing? It takes two persons to decide that. What does Justice Black mean when he refers to "the full measure of protection"?

Down in Alabama Negroes do not vote, and Negroes would have felt so much more secure had Justice Black said:

"Certainly Negroes are entitled to the full measure of protection in the political, social and economic rights, accorded to the citizenship of our country by our constitution and our laws."

Such interpolations in Justice Black's statement would have convinced the most skeptical black man in America that the new chief justice intended to give "full protection" in social, political and economic rights. As it is we are not so sure that what Justice Black calls "full protection" is the same thing black folk are thinking about. We wish the man from Scottsboro could have had the moral courage to recede from a realm of reasoning vague and indefinite.

But even so, we are willing to go far enough with him to feel that he has actually grown in social outlook since the evil days when he joined the Klan. Perhaps the language employed means what we would like for it to mean. Walter White and others who labored in Washington during the hearings on the Harrison-Black educational bill, state that the then Senator Black was flexible and showed a willingness to make changes in the proposed measure calculated to safeguard the educational interests of Negroes. Although then in reach of public sentiment, here was an Alabamian who was willing to go part the way on an educational program for Negroes.

Get the Congressional Record. Read Senator Black's speech in opposition to the anti-lynching bill. He opposed it, but read his remarks to see whether he stooped to the gutter of the average race-baiter. His argument was directed towards the constitutionality of the proposed act, and while he supported the Southern viewpoint, never once did he resortt o ugly, prejudiced statements regarding the Negro race.

The Black Dispatch hates to think that today on the Supreme Court of the United States there is a man who once knelt and took the Klan oath. But regardless to our likes or dislikes, such a man does sit in that august tribunal. He is there clothed with all of the power and influence of any other justice. Friday night, as he stood beyond the reach of public sentiment, we heard him dedicate his life to freedom and tolerance? Is there such a thing as growth? Is there anything to be gotten out of that passage of scripture that reads, "Though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them white as snow"? If a man does wrong, is there any way or method by which he can correct that wrong?

Forgetting his former Klan membership for a moment, Negroes should recall that President Roosevelt placed Hugo Lafayette Black on the Supreme Court bench because of his economic views. Negroes have for 70-odd years been here is a man who comes from Alabama, who if allowed to interpret his views on labor into our fundamental instrument, will lay the foundation for economic growth and stability among black laborers such as they have never known.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
October 28, 1937

One Cduse of Lynchings

Never mind the sensational history of the Scottsboro case. But remember this:

It took Alabama six and one-half years to dispose of a case which involved one of the gravest offenses listed on the calendars of crime in the Southern states.

The whole nation continues to ask the question, "Why is there so much lynching in the South?"

There are divers answers to this question. But one of them very definitely is Scottsboro.

When, by due process of law, society can be protected promptly and properly against its enemies, there may be some lynching still in Dixie. But assuredly there will be less of it than there is today.

Alabama.

Lynchings- 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape

5623

Taylorsville, N. C., Times
September 9, 1937

THE SCOTTSBORO

The noted "Scottsboro" case has already gone down in history and in the records of our highest court.

During the depression of the early thirties of this decade, two women, Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates left their homes in Alabama, going to Chattanooga to hunt work. Failing in that they were returning on a freight train when they were assaulted by nine negroes who admitted their guilt when arrested.

They were indicted and tried by an unprejudiced judge and jury, convicted and sentenced to death. They appealed to the Supreme Court of Alabama and the verdict was upheld. The case was further appealed to the Supreme court of the United States which set aside the verdict on the grounds that the case was tried contrary to the Constitution of the United States.

The evidence was to the effect that these women were shabbily dressed and were of the poorest class and made poorer by the depression. They were also of doubtful character according to the evidence of the defense.

At the second trial of Haywood Patterson, Ruby Bates suddenly disappeared and did not turn up as a witness for the State at the time of the development of the case for the State. However, like a thunderbolt from a cloudless sky she unexpectedly appeared in the courtroom, dolled, powdered, fitted, and dressed in the finest garments ever seen on Fifth Avenue. She took the witness stand and as a witness for the defense she repudiated all the evidence she had given in the former trial.

When the great secret had unfolded itself it turned out that she had been taken on a trip to the city of New York, visiting Mr. Fosdick, pastor of the Riverside Drive church which is claimed to be the wealthiest church in America. After having been in contact with Mr. Fosdick she was placed aboard the "Birmingham Special" and forwarded to Birmingham, Alabama there to make another confession to the pastor of the finest church in Birmingham.

This all happened in 1932 when the depression had waxed greater than it was in 1931 at the time the crime was committed. Now will some one tell me just where Ruby Bates got all these fine clothes? Where she got the money to ride the Birmingham Special?

When the trial opened in February 1932 asking for the life of Haywood Patterson this Ruby Bates was in the courtroom shabbily dressed ready to testify for the State. All of a sudden she disappeared and did not show up until the defense began to put on its evidence. Now we must concede that if Ruby Bates and Mrs. Price were the low class that ride the rods at the time of the crime then how could Ruby Bates have time to make enough money to purchase all these fine clothes from the time that the trial opened until the State rested which was four days? How would she have time to make enough money to ride the Birmingham Special in four days? Why did she have to go all the way to New York to make this confession? If some one will answer these questions favorably for the defense, I shall apply the 'Reasonable Certainty Rule", tell you who made God.

Two lawyers employed by the defense tried to bribe Mrs. Price but they failed and landed in jail in Chattanooga.

The defense tried to get the service of Clarence Darrow but what did Mr. Darrow tell them? He came out boldly and told them that he would not appear for a defense that was trying to buy the courts of Alabama or any other State.

On the second trial these defendants were convicted and again sentenced to death. They appealed their case to the Supreme court of Alabama which upheld the verdict. They then appealed to the Supreme court of the United States which set aside the verdict.

Although Mrs. Price was not what she should have been according to the evidence of the defense, there is one thing to the everlasting glory of the women, she did not accept a free trip to New York, and she thought more of her honor and her oath than she did of all the fine clothes Fifth Avenue affords.

There should be a monument in Alamaba for Mrs. Price high enough to gild the granite shaft erected to the memory of Washington in the Nation's capitol.

Mr. Josiah William Bailey, in glowing eloquence thanks God for the Supreme court of the United States and its decision in the Scottsboro case, although he admitted they may be guilty.

And oh, my God, I voted in the primary of 1932 for Bailey and against Mr. Simmons. That shows when a fellow gets mad he has no more sense than a turtle with its head cut off. I shall never vote again when I am mad.

Today the four negroes freed in the Scottsboro case are on the stage in New York, a living monument to the Supreme court of the United States, the Constitution thereof, a trip on the Birmingham Special, a visit to Riverside church and wardrobe of the finest clothes ever seen on Fifth Avenue.

I am holding no hatred for the negro and I will be friend a negro who is down an out, through no cause of his own, as quickly as any other member of the human race, and I know that is the sentiment of the white people in the South.

But gentlemen, the Supreme Court of the United States has dealt a blow that will give us many years of trouble. The anti-lynching bill is soon to follow and that will finish the friendly relations between the negro races in South.

Taylorsville, N. C.
August the 18, 1937.

V. G. BECKHAM.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
September 3, 1937

Now Leibowitz?

The Scottsboro defense committee makes a statement:

"The Scottsboro defense committee and its constituent organizations have joined with Samuel Leibowitz in urging that these theatrical appearances may do more harm than good to the fight in which we are still engaged for justice for the remaining defendants. On this point the boys have listened to contrary and, we believe, mistaken advice from other sources."

The statement refers to the appearance of the four released defendants in the Scottsboro case in New York, where they were received as heroes by Harlem and as characters out of a book by blase Broadway.

Business of agreeing with the committee that such theatrical ventures may do more harm than good to the fight in which it is engaged. And there is much doubt as to the benefits befalling the released defendants themselves from ballyhoo demonstrations. But the point which intrigues is the statement of the committee that it "joins" Samuel Leibowitz, defense counsel, in urging that the young Negroes be led to desist from theatrical exhibitionism.

Mr. Leibowitz started the exhibition business himself, apparently, when he carried the young Negroes with him to New York. Is he now in effect confessing that his proteges have grown out of hand, and are about to embarrass him as much as his act embarrassed the state of Alabama?

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
September 16, 1937

Feasting On Alabama

New York will surely create so much interest in Alabama that the noise will result in greater advertising of the state than could be bought for millions of dollars.

New Yorkers now have a picture of Alabama from the "Scottsboro Case" that they believe, and while they would not like to stop in Alabama overnight, they will at least summons sufficient courage to come into this state, but our gasoline and our hot dogs, sleep in trailers with guns at their sides, and spend some money in this state.

Now that the Scottsboro publicity has about played out, the New Yorkers open up again on Alabama. This time the target is Hugo Black, Justice of the Supreme Court, in which the gentlemen in the mayoralty scramble in New York City are again playing Alabama for a fare-ye-well.

Without an issue, the New York campaign would go to the doldrums where it belongs anyway. So they have found an issue, the Klan issue, in which the life of Hugo Black is paraded. Justice Black, meanwhile, is in Europe, just to show New Yorkers how much he cares for their mouthings and intellectual meanderings.

The South is rapidly coming to the fore in this nation, getting some of those material things denied since the War Between the States. President Roosevelt has been and is a friend of the South. He knows of the natural wealth of the South. He knows that the genuine American lives in the South. He knows that the hope of the United States lies in the sound thought of the South.

Is it any wonder that New York half breeds raise the deuce, they can see the beginning of the wealth of the South and they hate it quite as fervently as the men who tried to throw Andrew Johnson out of the presidency.

Portsmouth, Va. Star
September 10, 1937

THE SCOTTSBORO PLAYERS

To many of the thousands who have sympathized with them, the news that four of the "Scottsboro boys" will go on the stage comes with a distinct accompaniment of repungance.

It would be more odd, perhaps, if they didn't take advantage of the fame that freedom will soon dull. After nine years in jail while the ponderous American judicial system performed several most undignified flip-flops, the four Negroes are turned loose upon a world that must seem wide and glamorous.

They assume heroic proportions to others of their race. For a while the quartet can capitalize on the headlines of their case. Then, when their drawing power at the box office dies, they can go back to the jobs they normally would have held, and life will go on as usual.

3 Scottsboro Negroes Enter Appeals Here

Formal certificates of appeal have been filed in the office of Gen. Robert F. Ligon, clerk of the Alabama Supreme Court, in the cases of Clarence Norris, Andy Wright and Charlie Weems, three of the remaining nine Negro Scottsboro case defendants. The appeals are from judgments of conviction rendered at retrial of the cases in the Morgan Circuit Court at Decatur last July, when Norris was sentenced to death, and Wright and Weems to 99 and 75 years imprisonment, respectively.

A third petition for appeal, filed by defense counsel on behalf of Haywood Patterson, another defendant in the same case, is now pending in the U. S. Supreme Court and is expected to be acted on within the next few weeks. Patterson's two previous appeals resulted in reversals of the Alabama court. It is understood the defense will also take an appeal to the Court of Appeals of Alabama in the case of Ozie Powell, convicted of assaulting to murder a deputy sheriff and sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary.

FREEDOM OF ALL SCOTTSBORO BOYS URGED BY FEDERATION OF LABOR

Convention Also Takes Stand for Independence of Ethiopia After Speech by Colored Delegate

Denver, Oct. 21—(CNA)— The annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, meeting in this city, went on record this week for freedom for "the remaining defendants in the Scottsboro case" and denounced the rape of Ethiopia by Fascist Italy.

It was the first time that a convention of the A. F. of L. took favorable action on a resolution in behalf of the Scottsboro boys, although it did this in a cautious way by urging "the public authorities to bring the case to a close." Observers interpreted the belated action as a result of pressure arising from the drive of the CIO to organize the unorganized, Negro and white, neglected for decades by the A. F. of L.

A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters, earnestly urged the convention to "boycott Mussolini for his rape of Ethiopia," in a speech on his resolution for aid to the Ethiopian people.

"The winning of independence for Ethiopia is fundamental to world peace," Randolph emphasized, as he

organize the unorganized, Negro and white, neglected for decades by the A. F. of L.

A. Philip Randolph, international president of the Brotherhood of Pullman Porters, earnestly urged the convention to "boycott Mussolini for his rape of Ethiopia," in a speech on his resolution for aid to the Ethiopian people.

In asking the court to review his conviction, Patterson contended it was impossible to obtain a fair trial in Morgan county, Ala. He was found guilty of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price, a white woman, in a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931.

Justice Hugo L. Black did not participate in the decision. There has been some talk among observers that, if he did participate, the decision might be challenged because of his former membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

Previous Conviction Set Aside

Patterson and the others escaped the death penalty in 1932 when the high tribunal ruled they had not been adequately represented by counsel and set aside their conviction. Subsequently, in 1935, the court ordered a new trial because Negroes had been "systematically excluded" from juries which had indicted and convicted Patterson and the other Negroes. At the next trial, Patterson was sentenced to prison.

Of the other defendants, one had been sentenced to death, four spent six years in prison and then had charges against them dropped and the remainder were sentenced to prison.

Before adjourning for two weeks, the court also agreed to review a lower court decision upholding a PWA loan and grant of $2,852,000 for construction of a power plant at Buzzard Roost, South Carolina. The Duke Power Company challenged the constitutionality of federal financing of electric projects.

PATTERSON CASE VERDICT STANDS

Supreme Court Refuses to Interfere With Sentence in Scottsboro Trial

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (AP)—The supreme court, after twice saving him from death, refused today to interfere with a 75-year prison term imposed in 1936 upon Haywood Patterson, one of nine Negroes who figured in the Scottsboro case.

On the Lynch Decision—No Opinion

The Tory press—which howled most about Klanism during the Black controversy—has taken a "breathing spell" on the brazen Ku Klux Klan decision handed down by the Supreme Court in the case of Heywood Patterson, Scottsboro boy, three days ago.

Where are the Liberty League Herald Tribune, the Tory Sun, the yellow rags of the fascist Hearst, the pseudo-liberal World-Telegram? Where are the reactionaries, who less than two months ago suddenly blossomed forth as the champions of Negro rights, as the defenders of the Bill of Rights, religious freedom and civil liberties?

But the New York Times is Johnny-on-the-spot; it's never disturbed. So after a day of conspicuous silence, it said in part yesterday:

"The spectacle of a justice of our highest court disqualifying himself from sitting in judgment on a case involving a fundamental question of civil liberties is a humiliating spectacle, which this country should never have been forced to witness."

The Times expresses no opinion whatever on this open lynch decision of the Supreme Court. It is only concerned because Justice Black failed to participate in a ruling which reeks of Klanism and jungle law.

In other words, the spectacle of the Supreme Court upholding a living death sentence on a Negro boy whose case has been condemned by the whole enlightened world as a monstrous frame-up, is not even worth mentioning.

Justice Black added fuel to the fire of the reactionaries when he again retreated and sat silently by while the court callously brushed aside the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments.

Faced with Supreme Court Klanism in practice, the Tories maintain a dead silence. They have nothing to say about the reactionary Hughes, Sutherlands, Butlers and McReynolds, who are the cornerstone of the Supreme Court clique against the Negroes and against democracy and progress in America.

Meanwhile, the Harlem Scottsboro Committee, organized under the auspices of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, shows the way to a broader and more intensified fight to free the five Scottsboro boys.

The Harlem Committee has a program of "Scottsboro Sundays," tag days, petition campaigns, united front delegations to city, state and national officials, and a deluge of protests to Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama, calling for the immediate release of the five imprisoned boys.

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What To Do With "This Body Of Death?" Alabama Editors Answer

Editor's Note: Recently The Advertiser proposed a "decent compromise" of the Scottsboro cases, to the end that Alabama might be spared further humiliation and expense in connection with these outworn cases, now 6 years old. We present, herewith, the reaction of a number of influential Alabama editors to this suggestion:

VINDICATED!

Elsewhere on this page will be found an editorial from The Montgomery Advertiser of the past Friday in which Editor Grover Hall advocates compromise of the Scottsboro attack cases, in order to rid the State of an infamous that has done more to sully her fair name than any other development in recent history.

This editorial was strongly endorsed in the Sunday editions of The Birmingham News and The Huntsville Times, both of which agreed that there is more to be gained by compromise than there is by "exacting the final pound of flesh."

It is a pleasurable duty for The Times-Journal to reproduce this editorial, as it offers full vindication and endorsement of the far-seeing judgment of the late F. T. Raiford, publisher of The Times-Journal, which prompted his attitude toward the entire early course of the litigation.

In his argument, Mr. Hall uses almost the exact words of a Times-Journal editorial of June 16, 1931, in which Mr. Raiford declared "only God knows" the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

We quote Mr. Raiford's editorial as follows: "As before stated in these columns we are unable to say if the immutable standards of right and wrong were effective in determining the guilt or innocence of the accused in the Scottsboro trial, or whether the scales were made to vibrate by the extraneous influences against the unfortunate defendants. Whether the eight negroes are guilty of the crimes alleged, only God knows, but we do know the environment in which they were subjected to the ordeal of life or death left much to be desired."

In an editorial appearing on Friday, March 25, 1932, Mr. Raiford predicted the storm of abuse that the State was to suffer because of the conditions under which the trials were conducted, and dared the wrath of fiery-tempered Alabamians by predicting the overthrow by the Supreme Court at Washington of the ruling by the Alabama Supreme justices affirming the death sentences in the case.

This prediction was made without equivocation, as follows:

"The action of the Alabama Supreme Court in affirming the sentences of seven out of eight of the Scottsboro negroes will be denounced as the culmination of a miscarriage of justice in many parts of the world.

"The storm of protest and objurgation will not be the outgrowth of a conviction that the negroes are innocent so much as that they did not have a fair and impartial trial. The trial took place under the menace of armed militia and frowning machine guns, with public feeling running high and a milling mob of thousands on the outside of the courtroom, whose emotions were whipped into a frenzy by a brass band and fervid oratory. A court proceeding of even-handed justice could not have taken place in such a hostile environment. Appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court on the grounds that the constitutional guarantee of a fair and impartial trial to all accused persons was violated and if the high court should sustain its own decision given in a similar case appealed from Arkansas, the cases will be remanded to the Alabama courts for retrial."

Thus it becomes apparent that Mr. Hall takes a position that is directly in line with The Times-Journal policy established by Mr. Raiford toward the Scottsboro cases and the endorsement of this paper of the suggestion of the compromise is a matter that requires no deliberation.—Selma Times-Journal.

AN APPEAL TO REASON

Reprinted on this page this morning is an exceptionally able editorial from The Montgomery Advertiser, in which Editor Grover Cleveland Hall advocates a "decent, dignified compromise" in the Scottsboro case, in order that the State of Alabama may "throw away this body of death."

With The Advertiser's conclusion The News and Age-Herald are in full sympathy. The Scottsboro case has been an Old Man of the Sea to Alabama for too many years. For one reason or another, almost irreparable damage has been done the good name of the State. If State officials can find their way clear to get rid of it, for the reasons Judge Hall mentions, if for no other reasons, they will have done a fine day's work for the people of the State.

With The Advertiser's premise that the people of Jackson County deserve the highest commendation for their attitude and actions over the years in connection with this case thrust upon them through no fault and no desire of their own, these papers are in full sympathy. With The Advertiser's further premise that it was revolted from the beginning by the Communist agitation seeking to make party and political capital out of the case, without regard to the welfare of the defendants, these newspapers agree fully.

The News and Age-Herald probably go a good deal further in their reasoning about the desirability of an effective compromise that will remove the Scottsboro case from the dockets of our courts than does The Advertiser. Nevertheless, and no matter what the particular reason assigned for the conclusion, there is no question in the mind of these newspapers that the suggestion made by Editor Hall is wise and worthy of the careful consideration of all officials concerned.

The heart of The Advertiser's appeal is contained in the following paragraph:

"Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail, since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years, and since they are doing more than all other citizens of Alabama combined to injure the whole people of Alabama before the world, since nothing worth while can be gained by the State in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end, The Advertiser herewith takes it upon itself to suggest and urge that the State now move for a decent, dignified compromise."

By all means, let us "throw away this body of death" that has encumbered us all too long—Birmingham News.

THE TENNESSEE VALLEY ANSWERS

For more than six long years, the "Scottsboro cases" have been bruited to the ends of the earth. They have been the cause of apparently endless, and expensive, litigation.

These cases are set for another trial next month at Decatur.

If they go to trial, there will be a repetition of the sordid, revolting story that has been told and retold, until it has become sickening.

The time has come, it seems to us, to clean the slate of this sorry mess, and for the State to wipe it off, if a decent compromise can be worked out between its representatives and those of the defendants.

There is enough of an element of doubt about the facts of the case to justify an attempt by both sides, with the consent of the court, to effect an agreement that will clean this dirty mess off the docket, and to call it a day on this long, foul affair.

Public interest in the suits is all but dead. There is little active, vigorous demand for the State to demand the final pound of flesh. It is doubtful that a jury would give the death sentence, for one of the defendants, who had twice been given the extreme penalty, received only 75 years on his third trial.

A powerful argument for a just and honorable compromise, to spare the people of this State further in these nauseous trials, was made in The Montgomery Advertiser Saturday morning, by its distinguished editor, Judge Grover Hall.

Judge Hall calls for "cease firing" if a compromise can be reached.

His logic is so convincing that we reproduce here his editorial in full.—Huntsville Times.

SOUR NOTE FROM TUSCALOOSA

The Advertiser spoke on Saturday morning, The Post chimed in with its usual whoop for the dear little Scottsboro boys Saturday afternoon and the great social-minded Birmingham News joined the chorus on Sunday morning. And on Monday the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed the 75-year sentence of Haywood Patterson. Haywood is one of the "boys" and the action by the court makes either the newspapers or the court look a little ridiculous.

We believe in the value of a compromise, but we for one do not intend to scream like a parrot for it just because The Advertiser, The News and The Post regard it as a good idea. An honorable compromise is a noble thing. But the day of an honorable compromise in the Scottsboro case is past. The gauntlet has been thrown down to us, and we may show leniency, but we cannot compromise.

In the first place, if the Scottsboro boys were guilty in March, 1931, they are still guilty today. The Jackson County jury, the vast majority of Alabama people and The Montgomery Advertiser believed that they were guilty in 1931. The Advertiser even admits that it gave editorial support to Tom Knight solely because of his prosecution of the Scottsboro negroes.

We do not think that either the guilt or the innocence of the "boys" has been affected just because Ruby Bates turned defense witness. She committed perjury at one time or the other—and just judging from human nature and all the finery which she had on her back when she returned to Alabama to change her testimony, we guess that she committed perjury the second time. Ruby Bates, if anything, makes it even more imperative that the State proceed with its prosecution. Even some of the members of the Attorney General's staff have well-grounded suspicions that Ruby Bates was bribed by the International Labor Defense and other radicals in the East who think that it's all right for them to tamper with our courts, but awful for us to prosecute a rapist.

The Scottsboro defense will interpret any sentence short of 25 years a "victory." And any compromise by our prosecuting officers will be the signal to the world that Alabama has surrendered. It will be our official notification that we were wrong all the time. It will tell every radical in New York City and Moscow that Alabama might imprison or even electrocute a negro rapist if too much fuss is not made about it—but that we will always crawl back into our shells when outside lawyers and outside agitators find out about the case and enter it.

We will be inviting more trouble than the Scottsboro case ever dreamed of causing us.

As far as The Tuscaloosa News is concerned, we have no desire to persecute anyone, but we do believe that if the grand jury had sufficient evidence to indict them, these negroes ought to be placed on trial.—Tuscaloosa News.

SENSIBLE SUGGESTION

In the well known Third Column of this page today is an editorial from The Montgomery Advertiser which records a rather unique procedure for that paper, i.e., a reversal of policy.

From the beginning of the "Scottsboro case" The Advertiser demanded, as practically every other Alabama paper demanded—prosecution to the limit of the accused Negroes. But now, six years after their arrest, The Advertiser says: "Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail, since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years, and since they are doing more than all other citizens of Alabama combined to injure the whole people of Alabama before the world, since nothing worthwhile can be gained by the State in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end, The Advertiser herewith takes it upon itself to suggest and urge that the State now move for a decent, dignified compromise."

To this suggestion The Birmingham News agrees. And to it The Eagle agrees. And for the reason

of Judge Horton's lengthy statement in setting aside the verdict of the jury in the first trial. Judge Horton said that, from the testimony given in court, the Negroes were not guilty. His statement is too long to be given in this place, but it was a fearless, fair and convincing dissertation. Incidentally it cost the Judge his seat, but he discharged his plain duty as he saw it.

The Eagle is well aware that the years these Negroes have been in jail without their cases being disposed of has contributed to the mob spirit in other sections of the country.

And it is past time the cases were removed forever from the docket.—Dothan Eagle.

APPARENTLY FAVORABLE

Last week The Montgomery Advertiser, breaking a two-year silence, considered again the Scottsboro case and in an inspired editorial asked for a decent compromise in the case which has done more to blacken the name of Alabama at home and abroad than the good works of hundreds of Alabamians have been able to do to enhance it. Throwing no sop to the pseudo liberals of the east who have attempted to make political capital of the trials and asking that Alabamians shake off, for the time, for the good it will do, their traditional attitude, The Advertiser appeals for speedy compromise settlement of the affair which has cost so much in money, time and good will.

Stating that it has consistently supported the State and the city of Scottsboro during the six years that the case has dragged through the courts, The Advertiser continues to give its opinion of the case.—Eufaula Tribune.

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
June 15, 1937

Throw Away This Body Of Death

(Montgomery Advertiser)

The Advertiser has from the beginning taken the side of the state and its attorneys in the prosecution of the Scottsboro cases. It has praised the officers and citizens of Jackson County that prevented a lynching in the first instance. It has commiserated with Jackson County for its peculiar misfortunes in connection with this saga of crime, prejudice, politics and stupidity. Jackson County, you see, had no original interest in this matter. The women concerned were not citizens of that county. The men who are charged with outraging them were not citizens of that county. The two sets of parties to this issue happened to be riding through Jackson County on a freight train, and the men now charged with rape on that occasion happened to be arrested in Jackson. Nevertheless, Jackson had to bear the heavy cost of the first trial and the even heavier cost in notoriety which the name of "Scottsboro" has imposed. Thus Scottsboro, a pleasant little town of the mountains, has been libeled throughout the reaches of civilization, and so, for another reason, The Advertiser has been on Scottsboro's side.

The Advertiser was revolted from the first by the Communistic vermin that swarmed into the picture without invitation, not to serve justice, that pure and serene lady of mythology, but to make political capital.

When at last the Supreme Court of the United States reversed an Alabama court that had found one of the defendants guilty, reversing Alabama on the ground that the Alabama jury that was trying a negro had no negro in the panel, The Advertiser jeered the Supreme Court and intimated that its opinion was suspect due to the fact that no negro was on the nation's highest bench when the opinion was written.

In the meantime, it has been the duty, and the privilege, of The Advertiser to defend the good name of Alabama against the stupid slanders of a heathen world.

In 1934 The Advertiser departed from its custom and urged the people of Alabama to elect a certain candidate for lieutenant governor. Ordinarily this paper does not concern itself with the ambitions of candidates for any office other than governor and United States senator. That year, however, The Advertiser asked the people of Alabama to elect the late lamented Thomas E. Knight, then attorney general, to the lieutenant governorship, notwithstanding that at that time he had able and honorable opposition for the office. The Advertiser argued that Tommy Knight should be elected lieutenant governor as a rebu e by Alabama to the outer world for the contumaly and slander tha. it had heaped upon our state because of the Scottsboro cases. Mr. Knight was elected lieutenant governor.

In 1935, when Albert A. Carmichael, Knight's successor as attorney general, announced that he had retained Mr. Knight to press the prosecution of the "Scottsboro boys," The Advertiser commended his wisdom and patriotism, and urged the attorney general to see the prosecution through to the bitter end. That was the last comment, until now, that The Advertiser made upon the ugly affair.

The Advertiser, in other words, is a hold-out. It has been deeply incensed by the conduct of the more vociferous "friends" of the Scottsboro boys and has had little sympathy with their antics. Today marks the first release from its original mood.

Today, however, without any apology for what has been said before in these columns or done by the officers of Alabama's courts, The Advertiser ventures to make this suggestion to the officers of the state, including the attorney general, the judge and the circuit solicitor who now face the grim business of retrying these revolting cases: Why not collaborate in effecting a decent compromise?

The Advertiser realizes that rape is a capital offense under the laws of Alabama, however lightly the lawmakers of England may have taken the same offense. The Advertiser realizes that in Alabama the rape of a white woman by a negro is commonly regarded as the worst of all possible crimes, however culpable the victim may sometimes be. The Advertiser is well aware of the essentially Southern point of view with regard to this question which controls the thought of Alabamians.

But The Advertiser also knows that the "Scottsboro boys"—now approaching middle age—committed whatever crime they may have committed in extraordinary circumstances, and against two women who by all accounts never before had put a high premium upon their virtue, one of whom even went the length upon one occasion of turning state's evidence.

The Advertiser knows, all of its readers know, the whole of this sordid, sickening story. What a nightmare it has been!

What we are trying to get at is this: "Scottsboro" has stigmatized Alabama throughout the civilized world, and every informed person knows it. "Scottsboro" has injured Alabama incalculably.

Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail, since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years, and since they are doing more than all other citizens of Alabama combined to injure the whole people of Alabama before the world, since nothing worth while can be gained by the state in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end, The Advertiser herewith takes it upon itself to suggest and urge that the state now move for a decent, dignified compromise.

The Advertiser confesses that it is sensitive to the question of public policy involved as well as the question of personal human justice. Let Alabama be true to the principle of justice for even the lowliest human being. Let Alabama be very just, especially for the friendless and underprivileged; but let Alabama also be true to itself—let it think and act according to the dictates of enlightened public policy and public service.

Nothing can be gained by demanding the final pound of flesh, and The Advertiser has reason to believe, even to know, that it is not the wish of the state to exact the final pound of flesh.

On the other hand, Alabama has nothing to apologize for in the premises. Thus far the state has done nothing but its simple, plain duty.

But what of the future? What should we now do to shake this body of death that is "Scottsboro?" Enlightened public opinion in Alabama will, in The Advertiser's opinion, applaud any official concerned who now strikes out for an honorable, fair and just settlement of these messy cases.

Scottsboro Appeal Dismissal Is Asked

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8.—(AP)—The State of Alabama asked the Supreme Court today to dismiss the appeal of Heywood Patterson, one of the nine negroes involved in the famous Scottsboro case.

Patterson has asked the high court to review his conviction in the State courts where he was sentenced to serve a 75-year prison term for an alleged attack upon a white woman. The high court twice has saved Patterson from the death penalty.

The State's brief, filed by Attorney General A. A. Carmichael, asserted that "the record does not disclose that Patterson's conviction was the result of anything other than legal evidence."

Patterson's contention was that his trial should have been transferred from the Morgan County court to the Northern Alabama Federal District Court because of the "utter impossibility of obtaining a fair trial in Morgan County."

To this Carmichael's brief replied: "The State of Alabama undoubtedly has the right to prescribe the place where a criminal is to be tried. There is nothing in the Federal constitution which gives the Federal government the right to dictate to the States where the venue of an action is to be placed."

Charges against four of the nine negroes were dropped recently after they had spent six years in prisons. Another, Clarence Norris, faces the death penalty. The others have received prison terms.

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Burlington, N. C., Times-News
July 26, 1937

SCOTTSBORO SOLUTION NEAR

FIVE NEGRO YOUTHS who three times have been sentenced to die were given their outright freedom Saturday, both from execution of the death sentence and from fear of further prosecution, in the world-famous "Scottsboro case" which has stigmatized Alabama justice for several years. Of the other four Negro defendants accused in that sordid complexity of either fact or fiction relating to the raping of two white women on a freight train at Painted Rock, Alabama, one is under a sentence of death for the third consecutive time, two are under sentences so prolonged as to constitute life imprisonment, and one faces a jail term of 20 years not because of the alleged fact of the rape but because he stabbed an officer who was leading him back to jail after one of the innumerable and interminable trials.

Taken up instantly by liberals in this country and abroad with a prejudice and an insistence almost as savage as that displayed, conversely, by race-bitter Alabamans, the case almost immediately developed into a cause celebre on which the whole sociological framework of justice for the Negro in the South was draped. Three times the defendants were found guilty of criminal assault in the first degree, three times were they sentenced to death, two times did the Supreme Court of Alabama uphold the convictions—and each time did the Supreme Court of the United States send the cases back for retrial.

The apparent facts of the case were almost completely lost sight of in the welter of racial and sectional animosities that bubbled each time the Scottsboro cases came up. Although it was brought out each time that the two alleged victims of assault were women whose reputations could be submitted to rough handling on cross-examination, although they admitted earlier relations with some white hoboes riding the rails of the same freight, although the women about-faced on their stories repeatedly—what, apparently, was the core of the case to Alabamans was simply this: Negroes had had relations with white women; they therefore must die. Whether the relations were forced on the women or not, whether the word of two women of damaged reputation could be accepted over the denials of nine men had nothing to do with the case to the jurors.

Alabama must at last have become as sick of her celebrated case as has the rest of the world, and weary of the fingers of scorn pointed endlessly at her. She has now gone more than halfway with Leibowitz; she has freed five of the defendants outright, and it is seemingly evident that three of the other four will not serve their sentences. In fact, it looks as though the only defendant who will go to prison as a result of the Scottsboro case will be Ozie Powell. His is a rich dose of irony. Freed as he probably will be along with the others on the original indictment of criminal assault, he yet must serve 20 years in the penitentiary for assault with intent to kill upon an officer. Small comfort to him will be the ultimate disposition of the Scottsboro case, for fate has indeed played him shabbily.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
July 31, 1937

AT LAST WE ARE RID OF THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The Scottsboro case is ended. The state has dropped all charges against four of the nine defendants. In reality, the charge of assault on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates has been nol prossed in five of the cases, for while the fifth Negro is under sentence, it is for a charge of assault with intent to murder growing out of an attack on a deputy sheriff. The other four Negroes remain under conviction on the charges of rape, with varying sentences imposed on them.

The dropping of five of these cases and the reported agreements concerning the other cases in which convictions have been secured represent a triumph of common sense and moderation. These cases, dragging on for more than six years in an atmosphere of doubt and dispute, with all the unsavory elements that have entered into them, have been a perennial nightmare to Alabama. The great majority of the people of this state, The News-Age-Herald is convinced, will rejoice to be rid of them.

At most, the truth of these charges has been extremely doubtful. There has been evidence and testimony to indicate that the Negroes actually were not guilty as charged. One of the accusers, Ruby Bates, repudiated her original testimony that she was assaulted, and denied that there were any assaults on either her or Victoria Price. The latter testified throughout the numerous trials that she was assaulted, though her testimony, in its conflicting statements, and in its discrepancies with the testimony of others, was of such a nature that it was never conclusive.

Grave doubt therefore surrounded these charges. In view of this doubt, and in view of all the other circumstances, no one could be certain of where truth and justice lay. In this uncertainly, the sensible thing from every standpoint was to do just what the state has done—end the sorry mess in the most convenient way.

Apparently there has been an agreement between the state and the defense that the most convenient way to end the cases was to drop the remaining charges and let the convictions stand, together with an understanding, according to reports credited as authoritative, that clemency would be granted in the case of the death sentence imposed on one of the defendants.

The status of the five Negroes under conviction is varied. In the case of Ozie Powell, the charge of rape has been dropped, but he has pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder in connection with his attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in January, 1936, when he was being transported to the Jefferson County Jail. For this he has been sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary. There is no question that this was a criminal act and that he was guilty as charged. Accordingly, in whatever adjustments might be made concerning these cases in the future, his should be considered separately from the rest.

As for the other four under conviction, the varied sentences imposed and the fact that the rape charges were dropped against the other five defendants clearly call for adjustments. Either all nine Negroes were guilty, or none was. Since there was so much doubt of their guilt that the assault charges were nol prossed in five of the cases, it would hardly be fair to let the sentences stand as they are.

In the case of Clarence Norris, sentenced to be executed, there is assurance, apparently, that the death sentence will be commuted. Another defendant, Andy Wright, is under sentence of 99 years. Two others, Heywood Patterson and Charlie Weems, are under sentence of 75 years.

Thus, while the Scottsboro trials are ended, there remain further questions for consideration. The responsibility for the adjustment and disposition of the case under conviction rests on the governor. Since the governor doubtless knew of the disposition that was to be made of the cases in court, whether or not he gave his own sanction to the arrangement, he must surely be contemplating an exercise of clemency powers which as nearly as possible will prevent undue punishment of some while others go free. This paper believes that the governor can be trusted to deal wisely with these convictions.

What the state officials in charge of the prosecution have done should be accepted by all Alabamians, and the state's course upheld by public opinion, regardless of individual feelings concerning the question of guilt or innocence. For let everyone remember that whatever may have been his opinion about the Scottsboro case, he could not be sure that there was any foundation for his opinion.

And whatever the governor may do in adjusting the sentences of those under conviction, it should likewise be accepted by all Alabamians. The final responsibility in this will be solely the governor's. The public should realize that, in the circumstances, the governor will be closer to the subject and will have a fuller knowledge of all its aspects than any other person. Whatever he sees fit to do, we may all be sure, will be done in accordance with the best dictates of his judgment and conscience. Let us all trust the governor's conscience and judgment in this matter. Let us all abide by any decision he reaches in making adjustments.—Birmingham News.

Savannah, Ga. Times
July 30, 1937

EXTRADITION

The constant tirade against Georgia penal conditions in Northern states has finally made its appearance in Massachusetts where Governor Hurley refused to honor extradition for a negro escape on the grounds that the penal conditions in Georgia forbade the return of this thrice convicted criminal. The constitution distinctly makes it the duty of the several states to honor extradition proceedings, and the flimsy excuses offered show that the Governors of northern states are yielding more to public sentiment in those states than to the law that they are sworn to obey.

The lessons from these acts of reprisals in the North show that the movie picture "I Am a Fugitive from a Chain-Grang," and the Scottsboro episode has done their deadly damage, and that the Governors are yielding to the sentiment in their States rather than to the law. A movie magazine published a few days ago disclosed that another picture depicting a lynching scene in the South is about to be released, and of course this nationally disturbed movie will only tend to increase the already inflamed feeling prevalent in Northern states.

It behooves Georgia to take steps to remove this feeling. Reprisals by this State will not solve the criminal conditions. Of course Georgia could in turn retaliate by refusing to cooperate with police officials in other sections, but this would not benefit the campaign against crime. Georgia should improve her penal condition and rectify conditions in Georgia so that this feeling that is militating against her can be removed. Acrimonious exchange of letters by our Governor may be spectacular but they accomplish no good except to give more publicity to a condition that is injuring Georgia. This unfavorable advertisement although unwarranted to a large extent is keeping industries and people away from Georgia. Georgia must remove this feeling by constructive work and not be engaging in letter writing with tart and pithy insinuations to the chief executives of other states.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 29, 1937

The Leibowitz Exhibition

Samuel Leibowitz may feel that he did the wise thing in carting off the freed Scottsboro Negroes to New York and allowing them to parade Harlem amid the hilarious shouts of the Harlemites. But there is reason to doubt that wisdom.

Back of this venture could be the suspicion that hot-headed Southern hoodlums would try to harm the Scottsboro defendants. But it is dubious logic which foresees mob passion aroused in this case after six years, especially when the reputation of the involved white women is considered.

Apparently the itinerary was arranged for other purposes. Leibowitz contends that he wants to help the young principals in the Scottsboro drama, and the American Civil Liberities Union, which employed the attorney, is actively interested in providing a new opportunity and start in life for the youngsters, according to reports. This ambition is laudable.

Leibowitz, too, would insist that the spotlight should be turned in this manner upon "Alabama justice," which he evidently regards with a baleful eye of contempt. Many other critics of the procedure followed in the Scottsboro case will agree with him on the proposition that the scales of equity might be balanced better in the trial of friendless, illiterate Negroes, not only in Alabama, but in other states, North and South. But it is doubtful that Mr. Leibowitz is speeding improvements upon Alabama justice by an act which is bound to cause embarrassment and resentment in that state.

The possibility exists that, at bottom, the scheme is designed to afford wider publicity for Leibowitz and the organization he represents. It was unnecessary, uncalled for, and in the final analysis, may add nothing of personal advantage either to the fortunes of the sensation-loving lawyer or his proteges whom he has figuratively mounted and marked "Scottsboro—Exhibit A."

Louisville, Miss. Journal
July 30, 1937

The mixed breed lawyer from New York, who defended so strenuously and doggedly, the Scottsboro rapists, can congratulate himself upon having done more to increase rape and lynching in the South, than all other forces combined.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
July 29, 1937

DEGENERATES

The Scottsboro case in Alabama was bad, bad in many ways, but South Carolina needs to hang her head in shame at the alleged crime of six white boys over in Cheraw—charged with criminal assault on a young girl they had never seen before, picked her up for a ride.

Regardless of the color of their skin, society cannot tolerate such brutish degenerates.

BREAK AT SCOTTSBORO.

July 26 1937

That break which has more recently been anticipated in the longstanding Scottsboro cases has at last come with dismissal, on a state's motion, of criminal assault charges against five of the nine negroes who have figured in this apparently endless and now become internationally famous litigation.

7-26-37

Three of the group had previously been convicted, for the third time, one being under death sentence and the other two having prison terms of 99 and 75 years respectively hanging over them. Appeal, however, has been noted in each instance, and the indications are that the judicial shuttle which has been operating for six years now will resume its schedule unless there is some definite understanding, reflected in part by the five dismissals, not as yet divulged by either state or defense counsel. Immediately before the state's motion to nol pros, another defendant, Charlie Weems, had been found guilty and sentenced to 75 years, while among the five against whom capital charges were dismissed, one, Ozie Powell, had pleaded guilty on an assault charge in connection with the shooting of an officer more than a year ago and drawn a 20 years term in prison.

It is the Daily News' idea that Alabama, in taking this step, has done far more than it would ever do by a bull-headed misadministration of justice to maintain its good name and vindicate its honor. Public opinion, so far as the outside is concerned, has apparently been strongly on the side of the Scottsboro defendants and the state and the south have been criticised and condemned accordingly. While the case has probably been magnified out of proportions, the taking of nine lives for one crime is rather large judicial business, particularly when the evidence has been as questionable as in these trials.

With the present turn of events it cannot be overlooked that the defendants who are at last to go free have been in the toils of the law for six years and during that interval have experienced the agony of the shadow of death. Alabama has thus inflicted a punishment, upon defendants ultimately freed, which can never be requited. Thus there is recorded another one of those situations in which justice goes its steely way with nothing apparently to be done for those whom the state ultimately admits its inability to convict.

Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama

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Scottsboro Comment Causes Speaker To Lose Radio Program

C. L. Spelman Arouses Indignation of Whites In Broadcast In Wilson; Discrimination Against Colored Programs Recently

(Special to Journal and Guide)

WILSON, N. C.—C. L. Spellman, Wilson County farm agent, was a news commentator over Radio Station WGTM in this city until last week. Mr. Spellman commented especially on activities of interest to farmers and dispensed very valuable information in regard to crops calculated to improve farming among colored farmers in that section.

Now Mr. Spellman's broadcast is no longer heard on the local station. The cause: the Scottsboro case.

It seems that Mr. Spellman brought up the famous case during a recent broadcast and called attention to the fact that four of the Scottsboro defendants had been freed. He made some other observations about the widely known case and the next day he found himself without his program all because a few white people had called up the station in righteous wrath and indignation over the things Mr. Spellman had said.

(Editor's Note: A copy of Mr. Spellman's speech appears on the editorial page of this week's paper, under the Open Forum column.)

But this was not the beginning of trouble between local colored people and the station. Some time ago, when the station was in its infancy, colored people had been invited to present program over the ether via the local transmitter. And they had apparently been welcomed.

But recently the policy had undergone some radical revisions. The first performers to feel it were the members of Laddie Springs orchestra, who had been broadcasting in the main studio for a half hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Recently the band was directed to the much smaller Studio B, which would hardly accommodate a quartet comfortably, and rather than suffer further indignities, the band severed relationships with the station.

Shortly after this effort at segregation, the Handel Chorus, widely known local singing group, was instructed to confine their programs to old spirituals and to refrain from singing any classical numbers or presenting any solo stars. Jack Sherrod, president of the group, announced that the chorus favored a variety program and so they had to give up their program.

Then came the Spellman case. At this point a group of business men decided that something must be done. Daniel McKeither, William F. Potts, C. L. Spellman, and Jack Sherrod, have begun preparation of a fifteen week radio program, to be broadcast for one half hour every week beginning the second week in September.

NEGROES GIVEN HEARING AUG. 28

Scottsboro Defense Counsel Asks New Trials For Three Defendants

DECATUR, Aug. 12—(Special.)—Defense counsel today was making final preparations to resume arguments in the Scottsboro case, after a motion for new trials was filed yesterday in the Morgan County Circuit Court.

Judge W. W. Callahan set Aug. 28 as the date for hearing the motion.

Clarence Watts, defense attorney, asked new trials for three of the five Negroes under sentence. They are Clarence Norris, under death sentence; Charles Weems, given 75 years and Andy Wright, 99 years.

The other two Negroes, Heywood Patterson, serving a 75-year term, and Ozie Powell, sentenced to 20 years, were not affected by the new motion. Powell pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder in connection with an alleged escape attempt in which an officer was slain, and was given the 20-year sentence. The rape charge was nol prossed.

Four Of Five Scottsboro Cases Appealed

Seek Reduction In Sentence Given Ozie Powell

(Another Story, Picture on pp. 4)

NEW YORK CITY — Definite legal steps toward the freedom of the five imprisoned Scottsboro boys began this week when appeals from the recent convictions were dispatched to the Alabama Circuit Courts, the Scottsboro Defense Committee announced.

Osmond K. Fraenkel, noted constitutional attorney, retained by the Committee, sent the appeals forward. They will ask for a new trial in the following cases: Andy Wright, sentenced to 99 years; Clarence Norris, sentenced to death; Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years; and Heywood Patterson, sentenced to 75 years in January, 1936.

In making the announcement at the committee's office, 112 East 19th Street, Morris Shapiro, secretary of the committee, stated that the committee "would also use every legal recourse to also obtain the release" of Ozie Powell, the fifth imprisoned Scottsboro youth.

Powell pleaded "guilty" to a charge of "attacking" a deputy sheriff and received a sentence of 20 years at the Morgan County Circuit court three weeks ago. Every effort will be made to have Powell's sentence reduced as low as possible, Shapiro explained.

In the case of Patterson, Fraenkel moved for a writ of certiorari taking the case for its third journey to the United States Supreme Court. The writ is discretionary with the Supreme Court. The Alabama Supreme Court has already upheld Patterson's 75-year sentence.

ALABAMA COURTS

Censured For 6 Years Of Blind Justice

Editor, Journal and Guide: Finally we may say, "It is over," and breathe more fully and easily since the business of the Scottsboro affair is about to blow over. All papers everywhere on Monday, July 26, carried the story of the four freed Scottsboro boys arriving in New York City. We are glad they are there. We are more than glad that the whole sordid mess is now about to be forever ended.

As my concluding remarks on this nationally famous case, I wish to say that it is very true that the alleged crime of which these boys were accused cannot be condoned in this country. It is also true that if such crimes are committed, the offender must be dealt with by due process of the law and in such measure as to bring justice to the offended. In handling the case from the beginning, the courts and officers of Alabama are to be commended for protecting the boys from mob violence, as may have happened in many places in the south. Still the courts and officers of Alabama are to be severely criticised for taking six years to free or condemn the accused.

In this country we stand on the full principle of justice for all people before the law. But a bungling justice as exhibited by the state of Alabama shakes our basic belief in the principle. Now that we have seen it take six years to complete a case as familiar to Alabama as a rape charge is, we wonder at the sincerity of Alabama officers and the efficiency of Alabama courts. Since it is true that on more than one occasion the highest courts have found fallacies in the activities of the general Alabama courts handling the Scottsboro cases, we more than hint that Alabama courts may have been more zealous to legally satisfy a design in the culture pattern of the deep South than in finding the solid ground of truth on which the unfailing wheels of justice really turn.

Now that four of the Scottsboro boys have been returned to that freedom from which they were snatched six years ago, it strikes me that they should not be used to satisfy the gaze of the morbidly curious. But, instead, all agencies should strive to rehabilitate them and help them find a place in life where they may earn an honest living unobserved.

—C. L. SPELLMAN

Wilson, N. C.

More Scottsboro Mail Passes Into Archives

Miss Kate Thompson, stenographic secretary in the office of Gov. Graves, yesterday closed the "Scottsboro Cases" at least temporarily, so far as the State Executive Department is concerned, when she turned over to the Department of Archives and History 64 large letter-file folders, stuffed to capacity with telegrams, letters, posta' cards and circulars received by the Governor, recording the cases.

Most of these communications represent protests against further trial of the defendants, or demand their unconditional release. They ceased to arrive soon after trial of the cases was concluded at Decatur last month.

The Archives and History Department already has stored away in the Capitol basement four large steel filing cabinets full of Scottsboro case correspondence of every kind and character, that has accumulated during the past six years.

THE I.L.D. FIGHTS ON

From the moment the Scottsboro boys were tied with ropes, put on a truck, and taken to the Jackson County jail in Scottsboro until Alabama decided that its judicial thinking was at variance with even the most bias of legal postulates, the International Labor Defense stepped into the case and fought it out.

When Clarence Darrow, retained by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People withdrew from the case because he was not given a free rein in handling it, there were many who felt that the boys were doomed. After accusing the I. L. D. of using the case merely for Communist propaganda, many organizations washed their hands of the whole affair.

Darrow's withdrawal was adjudged a blow to the defense which had hoped to associate itself with America's most eminent criminal lawyer and gain the benefit of his wide experience and prestige. When on March 25, 1932, the case was appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court, Attorney General Thomas E. Knight, Jr., now dead, argued it for the state before a Supreme Court that included in its roster his own father, Justice Thomas E. Knight. These were serious handicaps considering the temper of the provincial South and the peculiar circumstances surrounding the case. But the I. L. D. went ahead appealing twice before the Alabama Supreme Court, and twice before the United States Supreme Court. It took money, it took time, it required legal ingenuity and social perspective to mobilize and educate public opinion as to the implications involved.

The question of systematic exclusion of Race men from jury service, an issue that was never raised before, and, which formed the basis for appeal, was one of the historic points of the Scottsboro trial. Though men like Professor Albert E. Einstein, Theodore Dreiser, John Dos Passos, and women from such colleges as Radcliffe and Wellesly added their names to the long roster of those who had issued personal appeals demanding the release of the prisoners, many either through ignorance or through natural inertia registered little, if indeed any concern at all about the whole affair.

The I. L. D. had to fight not only sectional bigotry and deep rooted racial apathy, but also the clandestine opposition and indifference of a number of our so-called Christian and fraternal societies which, with mixed interests, watched from the sidelines the struggle for the triumph of elementary human rights over prejudice and ignorance.

While Samuel S. Leibowitz has scored a major victory for the Scottsboro boys and for the International Labor Defense, the implications of this victory transcend the lives of the nine boys, and the prestige of the I. L. D., for it should teach a great deal to the South, teach it to respect human rights, to reform its anti-social and anti-racial concepts and to salvage its reputation out of the malodorous and muddy waters of prejudice, discrimination and lynchings; and at the same time it should remind us forever that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
August 16, 1937

THE WRONG MOVE

ANYONE WHO championed the cause of the Negroes known as "the Scottsboro boys," and who felt elated with the liberal campaigners for their cause when four of the nine won complete freedom, must now feel compelled to criticize the quartet for their decision to appear in a Harlem theatre in re-enactment of the court scene at the hour of their release.

Such an anti-climax—for remuneration—following so closely the sultry bitterness, the resentment, hate and prejudice that beclouded the whole case of alleged rape against the negroes, is in the very worst of taste. It is bad enough to see a channel swimmer, or an aviator hero, or anyone precipitated into headlines overnight, make haste to capitalize on his brief hour of glory via the vaudeville stage; it is worst to see a Dr. Condon, who acted as "intermediary" for a harrassed Lindberg during the tragic kidnaping of the flier's son, pose in store windows and on the stage—for money—in exploitation of his cheap glory. But it is something else again to see these four Scottsboro boys seek to capitalize on their particularly "glory."

These Negroes represent an abortion of justice that after long last was partially righted; as a unit the nine of them were the piece de resistance in a case which focused international attention on the South's bungling of racial relations. Freed at last, they stand now for the triumph of justice, through earnest and unremunerated activity on the part of liberals, over prejudice and passion.

And in tawdry anti-climax they will pose on the stage for nickels—admittedly against the advice of their lawyer, Samuel Leibowitz. They will perhaps find that a lot of enthusiasm for their cause will quickly cool at this decidedly unmeritorious performance.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 17, 1937

The four Alabama negroes who were released in the trial of the Scottsboro case are giving their friends and sympathizers in the East something to think about. Contrary to the advice of their attorney, Samuel Liebowitz, who wanted them to go to work, they have gone on the stage and are presenting the Scottsboro court scene the day they were released. They have slicked their hair, dress in loud clothing and are strutting their stuff in Harlem. New York state will have more to say about those youngsters and New York courts will handle them with more despatch than those of Alabama.

SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN IN HIGH COURT

Third Appeal, Made by Patterson, Asks That He Be Spared From 75-Year Term

VENUE DENIAL IS CITED

Leibowitz Says Record Showed 'Utter Impossibility' of Fair Trial in Morgan County

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 (AP).—The Scottsboro case came to the Supreme Court for the third time today.

Haywood Patterson, who twice escaped the death penalty by intervention of the high tribunal, asked it to save him this time from a seventy-five-year prison sentence.

He and eight other Negroes were accused of attacking two white women, Ruby Bates and Mrs. Victoria Price, on a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in March, 1931.

Patterson's petition, prepared by Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York lawyer, and others, contended that the Morgan County court should have transferred Patterson's most recent trial to the Northern Alabama Federal District Court.

"The petition for removal was supported by affidavits setting forth the state of public mind throughout Morgan County with respect to the trial," the Supreme Court was told. "The allegations of th ptition and the statements of the affiants were in no respect denied by the State.

"Accepting such allegations and statements as true, the record shows the utter impossibility of petitioner obtaining a fair trial in Morgan County."

Patterson contended also that, while the indictment charged him only with "rape," the trial judge "instructed the jury at length on the subject of conspiracy."

"The consequence of the judge's charge was that the defendant might have been found guilty even though no rape ever took place on the theory that there was a conspiracy to commit rape, if it existed by the Negroes when they discovered that there were white girls on the train," the petition added.

"It is petitioner's contention that to permit a conviction upon a charge such as this, under the circumstances of this case, is a denial of due process."

The Supreme Court is expected to announce in October whether it will review the conviction.

Five years ago it set aside the conviction of Patterson and the other defendants on the ground that adequate counsel had not been provided for them during the trial.

Two years ago it ordered a new trial for Patterson and Clarence Norris, holdng that Negroes had been "systematically excluded" from the juries that indicted and convicted them.

At the subsequent trial Patterson received a prison sentence instead of death.

Norris, who may also appeal later to the Supreme Court, again received the death sentence.

Charges aaginst four of the Negroes were dropped recently after they had spent six years in prison. The others have been sentenced to prison.

Scottsboro Boy Sent to Chain Gang

Haywood Patterson Put on Gang Despite Foot Infection

Haywood Patterson, Scottsboro defendant, has been put on a chain-gang at Atmore in the Southern Alabama swampland, and, in spite of an operation less than a month ago for a chronic infection of the left leg, is being forced to work on the gang.

This information was received yesterday by the Scottsboro Defense Committee which is continuing its action to save Patterson's life.

A petition and brief for a writ of certiorari in Patterson's case was filed with the United States Supreme Court last Saturday by Osmond K. Fraenkel, retained by the Scottsboro Defense Committee. Patterson was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment 18 months ago.

Two years ago, Alf White, one of the imprisoned leaders of the Alabama Sharecroppers Union, was murdered in Atmore Prison Campcians, is in charge of the camp.

"This obvious attempt on the part of the Alabama authorities to get away with Haywood Patterson, while his case is pending for the third time before the Supreme Court is already wired to the officials must be transferred back to the county jail in Birmingham pending the appeal to the United States Supreme Court has been denied.

Threats are reported to have been made against Patterson's life in Kilby Prison, at Montgomery, where he was sentenced twice before he was his sentence.

MURDER AT CAMP

Vito Marcantonio, president of the International Labor Defense, Alabama, demanding his immediate transfer to a hospital in Birmingham, Ala., and holding them responsible for the life and safety of the Haywood Patterson. Alabama authorities must be shown, by a nation-wide protest, that millions of Americans are more than ever before in a very serious condition of the Kilby Prison physicians in charge vitally interested in the well-being and particularly to one whereafter of the Scottsboro Boys.

Two years ago another political "Three of the boys, Andy Wright, Charlie Weems, and Ozie Powell, was killed while serving in calling for nation-wide protest against this latest outrage in the Kilby Prison facing the same fate. "Alabama must be shown that the lives and freedom of the remaining five Scottsboro Boys has just begun. And only mass pressure of the most vigorous kind can show them."

Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

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SCOTTSBORO APPEAL DENIED IN ALABAMA

Highest State Judges Affirm Patterson's Sentence of 75 Years

TO SUPREME COURT AGAIN

Case Going to Washington for Third Time—Montgomery Group Presses for Compromise

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 14.—The Seventy-five-year sentence imposed in January, 1936, by the Morgan County Circuit Court on Heyward Patterson, one of the nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro case, was affirmed today by the Alabama Supreme Court. Four of the seven justices sat on the appeal and decided unanimously.

"When the record is examined, as has been done, we find no reversible error," the decision read.

Patterson's lawyers announced in New York that appeal would again be taken to the United States Supreme Court.

Trial of the other defendants, who are jailed in Birmingham, is to be resumed July 6 at Decatur.

Negotiations for a compromise of all nine cases, despite denials in official sources, are nevertheless receiving careful consideration and it is expected that when the time appears ripe a disposition will be sought satisfactory to the State and the defense.

Newspapers Support Effort

A group of citizens of Alabama, including Forney Johnston, Birmingham lawyer who has figured prominently recently in anti-New Deal appeals in the United States Supreme Court, are endeavoring to mold public opinion to the point where a compromise would appear expedient to those State officials who would assume the responsibility.

The Montgomery Advertiser lent itself to the movement on June 12 with an editorial, which said:

"Nothing can be gained by demanding the final pound of flesh, and The Advertiser has reason to believe, even to know, that it is not the wish of the State to exact the final pound of flesh."

The Editorial was reproduced with sympathetic comment in The Birmingham News, The Huntsville Times and other papers.

Patterson and the other Negroes were taken from a feright train in March, 1931, near Scottsboro and accused of assaulting Ruby Bates and Mrs. Victoria Price, white women, who had been riding the train. The Bates girl later repudiated the charge and has been a defense witness.

Leibowitz Declares Plans

Samuel Leibowitz, chief of Scottsboro defense counsel, said yesterday, when informed of the Alabama Supreme Court decision, that "the only comment is that we're going to the United States Supreme Court."

He said he believed it would be the first time in American history that a criminal case was brought to the highest court for the third time. He did not expect it to come up in Washington before November.

As to the trial of the other eight defendants, opening July 6 in Alabama, he remarked that "we'll be there."

Patterson's first conviction at Scottsboro in 1931 was set aside by the Federal Supreme Court. He was convicted for the second time at Decatur on April 9, 1933, and again sentenced to death. Two months later, Circuit Judge James E. Horton set aside the verdict as against the weight of the evidence and ordered a new trial.

Before Judge W. W. Callahan, he was condemned again on Dec. 1, 1933, the jury deliberating twenty-five hours. Five days later Clarence Norris was convicted and also sentenced to die.

The sentences were upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court on June 28, 1934. An indefinite stay of execution was granted, however, and on April 1, 1935, the Supreme Court in Washington ordered new trials. Chief Justice Hughes held that Negroes had been arbitrarily and systematically excluded from jury duty.

Patterson's third conviction resulted, on Jan. 23, 1936, in the prison sentence fixed by the jury at seventy-five years. The defendant, who at 23 had already spent six years in jail, said he'd rather die.

IN THE MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, *ADVERTISER* of June 12 there was published an editorial which in its first half defended the newspaper's unyielding support of the state's past conduct of the Scottsboro case and in the second half suggested that a "decent compromise" be made, ". . . since nothing worth while can be gained by the state in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end." The *Advertiser*, to be sure, makes no specific recommendations, and "compromise" is an ugly word in connection with the Scottsboro defendants whose lives have been placed in jeopardy, practically if not legally, over and over again for the same unproved crime. The *Advertiser* does note the fact that the boys "committed whatever crime they may have committed in extraordinary circumstances and against two women who by all accounts never before had put a high premium upon their virtue." And the editorial concludes, "Enlightened public opinion in Alabama will, in the *Advertiser's* opinion, applaud any official concerned who now strikes out for an honorable, fair, and just settlement of these messy cases." In our opinion an honorable, fair, and just settlement is the one set forth in the petition we have mentioned—that the boys be set free. Such a settlement would, among other things, immensely increase the prestige of Alabama throughout this country and in the far corners of the world where the fate of the Scottsboro boys has come to be the touchstone of American justice.

A NEGRO boy who already has spent six of his twenty-three years in jail for a crime that in all probability he did not commit now faces a sentence of seventy-five years in prison. The Alabama Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of Haywood Patterson, first of the nine defendants to go on trial when the Scottsboro cases were resumed for the fourth time in the Alabama state courts in January, 1936. Of the preceding three convictions, all of which had carried death sentences for Patterson, two were set aside by the United States Supreme Court and one by a courageous decision of Circuit Judge James E. Horton of Alabama. Defense counsel announces that Patterson's case will be taken to the United States Supreme Court for the third time, which is believed to be the first instance in history that a criminal case was brought that many times to the Court. Meanwhile, the other defendants in Alabama are scheduled to go on trial on July 6, and there are persistent and authoritative rumors of efforts being made to work out a compromise settlement between the state and the defense. Alabama desires this because of the unfavorable publicity the trials have brought, but it is difficult to see what kind of "compromise," short of exoneration and complete freedom, could be accepted.

A MASS PETITION TO THE GOVERNOR OF Alabama and to the state prosecutor is about to be circulated by the Scottsboro Defense Committee asking that the boys be set free, and the week of July 1 to July 6 has been designated as national Scottsboro week. We hope every organization and individual interested in common justice will get behind this move and roll up a list of signatures that the state of Alabama cannot ignore, for there is at least a chance that the mass pressure which has kept the boys alive for six years can now actually bring about that much-to-be-desired ending to the case. Haywood Patterson's fourth conviction has just been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court; the other eight defendants go on trial again in Decatur on July 6. It is clear to those who have watched this dreary spinning out of race prejudice that the cases will continue to go from state court to federal court and back again until all constitutional issues have been exhausted and the local court has at last found ways to make its convictions stick. Yet even in Alabama it is admitted that the case against the boys has been shown to be highly doubtful. There is the further fact that Jackson County, where the cases have been tried, has exhausted its resources in the attempt to send the boys to the electric chair. In general Alabama is said to be "tired" of the Scottsboro case.

DRIVE TO BROADEN
SCOTTSBORO DEFENSE.,
TRIALS OPEN JULY 6

WASHINGTON, June-- (CNA)- The broadening of the nation-wide campaign to free the Scottsboro boys, in connection with the appeal of the Haywood Patterson case to the United States Supreme Court, and the trials which are to open in Decatur, Ala., July 6, was planned this week at the National Conference of the International Labor Defense, held in this city June 19, 20 and 21. Many liberals attended, including three members of the Progressive bloc in Congress.

Crusader News Agency, 6-21-37, New York, N.Y.

The Alabama Supreme Court last week affirmed the 75-year sentence given Patterson, one of the nine youths in the celebrated six-year-old Scottsboro case.

The Scottsboro Defense Committee announced in New York that appeal would agair be taken to the Federal Supreme Court. The committee made the following comment on the latest ruling:

"The decision of the Alabama Supreme Court upholding the conviction of Haywood Patterson and his sentence of 75 years in the penitentiary indicates plainly that the state of Alabama is adamant in its determination to punish the Scottsboro defendants regardless of the overwhelming evidence of their innocence on the charges preferred against them.

"It was in this same Patterson case in 1933, on the identical evidence used when the 75-year sentence was imposed in January, 1936, that Judge James E. Horton, of the Alabama Circuit court, set aside the verdict of guilty and granted a new trial stating: 'The evidence greatly preponderates in favor of the defendant.'

"Of course the case will be appealed to the United States Supreme Court and all the other cases will be fought to the end, for this committee reaffirms its belief in the innocence of the defendants and the necessity of an unrelenting fight for their freedom."

Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of two of the boys, was one of the principal speakers at the I. L. D. conference. Other speakers included John P. Davis, secretary of the National Negro Congress., Ben Davis, Jr., head of the Harlem Bureau of the Daily Worker., Angelo Herndon, whose sentence of 20 years on a Georgia chain gang was recently reversed by the high court.

The conference was opened by Anna Damon, as acting national secretary of the I. L. D.

Newport News, Va. Press
September 15, 1937

LET JUSTICE RULE

Alabama's notorious Scottsboro case has made its third trip to the Supreme Court of the United States.

HAYWOOD PATTERSON, who twice escaped the death penalty by intervention of the high tribunal, filed a petition asking it to save him this time from a 75-year prison sentence. He is one of the nine Negroes accused of attacking two white women, RUBY BATES and Mrs. VICTORIA PRICE, on a moving freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in March, 1931.

The court will announce in October whether it will review the conviction or permit the sentence of Alabama courts to stand. Five years ago it set aside the conviction of PATTERSON and the other defendants on the ground that they had not been provided with adequate counsel during the trial.

Two years ago it ordered a new trial for PATTERSON and CLARENCE NORRIS, holding that Negroes had been "systematically excluded" from the juries which indicted and convicted them. At the subsequent trial PATTERSON was given a prison sentence instead of death. NORRIS, who may also appeal later to the Supreme Court, again received the death sentence.

Charges against four of the Negroes were dropped recently after they had passed six years in prison. The others have been sentenced to prison terms.

PATTERSON'S petition, prepared by SAMUEL S. LEIBOWITZ, New York attorney, and others, contend the Morgan county (Alabama) court should have transferred his latest trial to the Northern Alabama Federal District Court.

It is to be devoutedly hoped that the Scottsboro case will be closed at an early date and that even-handed justice will be meted out to all concerned. There are many angles to the case. Counsel for the Negroes have claimed that they are being persecuted because they are Negroes, and the authorities of Alabama bitterly resent the interference of what they term the uplifters and the Communists.

Recent developments in the case indicate that an attempt has been made at a compromise. But there should be no compromise in a case of this kind. Either the Negroes are guilty as charged, or they are innocent. It should not be impossible for an impartial court to get at the truth.

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A Good Meal, New Suits, Dental Care Mark Scottsboro Boys' 1st Day Here

Daily Worker 7-27-37 New York, N.Y.

Joseph R. Brodsky, One of Original Attorneys, Meets Four Youths

By Harry Raymond

"The fresh air is wonderful," Roy Wright, youngest of the four freed Scottsboro boys, said yesterday when asked how it felt to be out from under the shadow of the Alabama electric chair.

Olin Montgomery, Eugene Williams and Willie Roberson—his three companions—agreed that Wright expressed their feelings too.

The four Scottsboro boys smiled broadly as members of the Scottsboro Defense Commitee and prominent Negro citizens greeted them in the office of Samuel Leibowitz, chief Scottsboro defense attorney.

ATTORNEYS GREET THEM

When the boys arrived in Mr. Leibowitz's office following a shopping tour, they were met by Joseph R. Brodsky, International Labor Defense lawyer and one of the original Scottsboro attorneys; Roy Wilkins of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Morris Shapiro, attorney connected with the early Scottsboro trials.

"The first thing the boys did after they landed here was to go out and get a good meal," said John Terry, an assistant to Mr. Leibowitz.

They were driven to the restaurant of Mrs. Mrs. Laura Trilli, 230 Columbia St., Brooklyn, where they had soup, chicken, watermelon and coffee. Mrs. Trilli donated the meal.

Then Roy Wright and Willie Roberson were taken to the office of Dr. Nicoli Vellardi, 1276 71st St., for dental treatment. The Alabama jailers had denied dental care to these innocent youths. Two fillings by Dr. Vellardi for Roy and one for Willie—that was the first dental treatment the Scottsboro boys had ever received.

The boys were then driven to the Red Hook section of Brooklyn in an automobile donated by Samuel Triorti where suits of clothes, shirts, shoes, socks and underwear were bought for them.

Olin Montgomery, Eugene Williams and Willie Roberson picked brown suits. Wright chose a blue suit and a blue shirt.

RECOGNIZED IN STORES

The Morgan County, Alabama, Sheriff turned the boys out of jail in overalls and old jail clothes. Olin Montgomery was turned loose without a pair of socks on his feet.

Everywhere the boys went people recognized them and gathered in crowds to greet them.

A white girl in the Brooklyn restaurant, where the boys ate dinner, noticed them and said: "Gee, I'm glad you're out. I knew all the time you were innocent."

Prominent Negroes Are Present in Office of Attorney

In the Red Hook stores people ran over to them and asked if they were the Scottsboro boys.

PROMINENT NEGROES

A couple of cops spied them in an automobile and came over and wished them luck.

The telephones in the Leibowitz office were ringing all afternoon inquiring about the boys. Several radio stations wanted to put them on the air.

Among the prominent Negroes who greeted the youths in the attorney's office were the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church; Pope B. Billups, assemblyman for the 23rd District; Dr. L. A. King, of St. Marks Episcopal Church; J. Finely Wilson, grand exhalted ruler of the Negro Elks; William C. Hueston, commissioner of education of the Negro Elks, and Mark Cooper, head of the Junior Order of the Negro Elks.

FREED BOYS TO CARRY ON FOR 5 IN JAIL

Daily Worker

Scottsboro Boys Thank I.L.D. for Help in Long Battle

7-27-37

Tired and sleepy after two days and nights on a train, four happy Scottsboro boys looked out of a skyscraper office in downtown Manhattan yesterday morning at the Statue of Liberty in the bay below.

"It's good to see it," said Eugene Williams, one of the boys. And the other three swallowed hard.

"I'm as happy as I can be to be in New York," he said. "But I sure would like to see my mother." Mrs. Williams is sick in Chattanooga.

"What about the five boys who are still in prison?" they were asked.

WILL CARRY ON

"We are going to carry on to see that the other boys are free. We certainly are."

Olen Montgomery, who was 18 when they arrested him and who is today almost blind as a result of his treatment in the Birmingham jail, answered: "All of us want to thank our friends for the help they have given in setting us free. We want to thank the I.L.D. and all our other friends."

Willie Roberson was 17 and so sick that they had to carry him to jail. He's still sick, he explained, and he's going to see a doctor right away. Because of his illness, it was pointed out at the trial, he was incapable of committing the alleged crime.

TEETH ACHE

Roy Wright, the youngest of the four was only 13 when they accused him of rape, and yesterday while he spoke, his teeth were aching and he wanted to see a dentist just as soon as he could. He hasn't been able to eat in two days because his teeth hurt him so badly.

"I've never been afraid," he said. "I wasn't afraid in 1931 when they arrested us and I ain't afraid now."

They want to go to school, they said. That's what they're going to do right away.

Roy said he wants to be a teacher. Eugene's going to become a musician if they give him half a chance; Willie's going to learn to be a mechanic and Olin wants to be a tailor.

NO LET UP

They wore their prison clothes yesterday because they have no other, but the Scottsboro Defense Committee immediately contributed a hundred dollars to buy the boys suitable clothing.

"The back of the Scottsboro case has been broken," Samuel Leibowitz, attorney for the Scottsboro Defense Committee, said. "There'll be no let up on our part. We'll keep on fighting till all of them have been given justice—justice according to the American standard.

"That statement of the prosecution that four of these nine boys are innocent is illogical. It took them six and a half years to make up their minds after that Price woman testified that she was 'raped' by all nine of the boys."

The Scottsboro Defense Committee's next legal steps, it was pointed out, will be the filing of a motion to set the verdict aside on the grounds that the evidence was insufficient and that the boys were convicted by perjured testimony. If that move fails, the case will be taken to the Alabama Supreme Court, and if the State court refuses to free the boys, the case will be taken to the United States Supreme Court for a third time

Defense to Press Fight For 5 Others

Daily Worker

Committee Statement Calls Their Freedom Partial Victory

7-27-37

Hailing the freedom of the four Scottsboro boys as a "tremendous partial victory," the Scottsboro Defense Committee yesterday stated that "every legal recourse will be exhausted" in pressing the appeals of the Negro youths still imprisoned.

Simultaneously, it was announced that a huge "victory celebration" on the release of the four boys will be held at the Hoppidrome, Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, under the auspices of the Scottsboro Defense Committee. The meeting will also spur the fight for the freedom of the five remaining imprisoned boys.

The announcement was made during a press conference yesterday afternoon at the Committee's headquarters, 112 E. 19th St. Roy Wilkins, prominent Negro editor of the Crisis and head of the Committee's publicity bureau, was spokesman.

BOYS TO ATTEND

The four released boys—Olin Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Roy Wright and Eugene Williams—will make their first public appearance at the meeting Thursday night.

Mrs. Wright, mother of Andy and Roy, and Mrs. Viola Montgomery, mother of Olin, are expected to arrive here tomorrow from Chattanooga and Atlanta, respectively.

"World-wide disapproval of this unjust persecution has moved Alabama to free four defendants," Wilkins said.

Vigorously assailing all talk that the developments in the Scottsboro case were due to any "deal or compromise," Wilkins stated:

FUNDS NEEDED NOW

"The developments in the Scottsboro case to date are not the result of any deal or compromise. The defense of Norris, Weems and Wright was pressed with complete vigor: not a step backward was taken in exposing the persecution of these innocent boys."

He urged all "friends of justice to give moral and financial support to the fight to free the remaining

Scottsboro boys in prison." Contributions to the defense funds in behalf of the boys should be sent to the Committee's headquarters at 112 E. 19th St., Wilkins pointed out.

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The full statement of the Scottsboro Defense Committee issued yesterday said:

"The Scottsboro Defense Committee hails the tremendous partial victory which has been scored in the Scottsboro case, as evidenced by the unconditional release of four of the defendants.

"It does not view this victory, however, as the end of the struggle; on the other hand it considers that the right for the unconditional release of the other five defendants must be waged by all justice-loving people in the country and to this task it dedicates itself. For years the defense has demonstrated the character of the prosecution, and the complete innocence of the boys. The statement of the prosecution issued upon the release of the four defendants bears out completely the contention of the defense committee that all of the boys are innocent.

"Victoria Price time and time again charged that all nine of the defendants were equally guilty of the charge of rape; at trial after trial she would point to each of the defendants as equally guilty. Today the prosecution admits that five were not guilty. This admission emphasizes the falsity of the entire charge.

NO DEAL OR COMPROMISE

"The belated admission and freedom does not excuse the outrage of having kept these boys for 6½ years confined to jail.

"We welcome the unanimous statement of the freed defendants that they will devote their lives to the securing of the freedom of their fellow defendants.

"Any impression that the Scottsboro case is ended is wholly without foundation. The death sentence against Clarence Norris, and the vindictive long - term prison sentences given the other defendants make it imperative that the struggle for the release of the remaining defendants be continued until they are free.

"The developments in the Scottsboro case to date are not the result of any deal or compromise. The defense of Norris, Weems and Wright was pressed with complete vigor; not a step backward was taken in exposing the persecution of these innocent boys.

MANY GROUPS UNITED

"World-wide disapproval of this unjust persecution has moved Alabama to free four defendants.

"Every legal recourse will be exhausted in pressing the appeals from the conviction of the imprisoned youths, looking to their acquittal and release."

The Scottsboro Defense Committee, is composed of the following organizations: the International Labor Defense; the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; the Church League for Industrial Democracy; the Fellowship for Reconciliation; the League for Industrial Democracy; the Methodist Federation for Social Service; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and the American Civil Liberties Union. The Rev. Allan Knight Chalmers, Col. Wm. Jay Schieffelin, and Morris Shapiro are respectively chairman, treasurer and secretary of the Committee.

Nearly 4,000 Greet Them on Arrival at Penn. Station—Traffic Tied Up As Crowd Accompanies Them to Car

The four newly-freed Scottsboro boys stepped off a train yesterday into the arms of 4,500 cheering, shouting New Yorkers who broke through hastily established police lines and swept the boys out of Pennsylvania Station into the streets. Although the cops managed to maintain a cordon of police around the four boys they were unable to control the enthusiasm of the crowd which surged out of the terminal, through the taxi alley and out into the middle of Seventh Ave. and 31st St., sweeping the four boys along with them.

See page 3 for more news and pictures of the four freed Scottsboro Boys.

Policemen who attempted to hold the cheering men and women in line were brushed aside as thousands of them cried "Welcome to New York," and "Hurray for the Scottsboro boys."

ANSWER TO ILD CALL

Negro and white women, tears of joy streaming down their faces, pushed and pulled in attempts to get close to the boys. Taxi stanchions were overturned and traffic was halted as police struggled to push the boys into a cab.

Anna Damon, national secretary of the International Labor Defense, and Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Association of Colored People, boarded the train in Newark and accompanied the boys to New York.

BOYS APPEAR

The large crowd milled about in the station for half an hour before the train from Cincinnati arrived at 9:25 A.M. Word spread that the train would arrive at the North end of the station, and the crowd moved into that section. Then police were seen congregating around a track at the Southern end of the station. Quickly the crowd surged back.

The police were able to hold the crowd in check until the Scottsboro boys were led up the escalator. Then the police lines broke.

As the train pulled into the station at 9:25 A.M., Samuel Leibowitz, attorney for the Scottsboro Defense Committee, was seen on the platform of a Pullman car.

Station officials refused to open the doors until the press photographers had cleared a passage way.

Then he walked onto the platform, followed by the four boys, Olin Montgomery, Eugene Williams, Willie Roberson and Roy Wright.

Several dozen redcaps surrounded the boys.

The police cordon formed around the boys and they were escorted in double-quick time up an escalator into the joyous crowd which broke lines and for the next five minutes claimed the boys as their very own.

Jailed Scottsboro Boys Are Menaced By Prison Sickness

Andy Wright to Undergo Serious Operation, Mother Declares—Charlie Weems Found Tubercular—Powell 'Dying on His Feet'

By Ben Davis, Jr.

A new menace—serious illness—brought on by almost seven years of harried and continuous confinement in the Alabama jails now threatens the lives of four of the five imprisoned Scottsboro boys, it was revealed yesterday.

Mrs. Ada Wright, who has just returned from a trip to Kilby prison in Montgomery, Ala., said yesterday that two of the boys were now confined in the prison hospital. Mrs. Wright's hurried trip was due to a request from her son Andy, who was recently operated on for acute hemorrhoids.

"Andy is going to have to be operated on again in a few days I'm afraid," she said.

OTHERS ARE ILL

Charlie Weems, sentenced to 75 years, has tuberculosis, while Haywood Patterson, also sentenced to 75 years, is suffering from a dangerous infection in his leg, Mrs. Wright stated. Patterson underwent an emergency operation about ten days ago.

"Ozie Powell," Mrs. Wright explained, "is hardly more than skin and bones. The boys say he is dying on his feet." Powell who is partially paralyzed in one side as a result of being shot in the head by a deputy sheriff in 1936, was sentenced to 20 years after a plea of guilty to an "attack" on the sheriff.

Simultaneously, Mrs. Wright urged all "friends of my son and the other Scottsboro boys to give all support to the Scottsboro Defense Committee in its efforts to free the remaining five boys. We must all work fast and hard—and together, for their long stay in prison is slowly sapping their lives."

FEARS LOSS OF ARM

Mrs. Wright, also the mother of Roy, one of the four freed Negro youths, visited Andy last Sunday With her were her two daughters Beatrice Maddox and Lucile, who also reside in Chattanooga, Tenn.

"Andy said that he was to lose the use of his right arm from work about the prison which requires him to stand on his feet from six in the morning until six at night. He told me 'Mother, I'm sick and I can't stand this very long. Tell my friends to hurry and do all they can to get us out of here'."

Andy, she stated, informed her of the condition of all the boys. "They don't allow any one to see the boys unless they are relatives. I tried to see Haywood Patterson, who stayed right around the block from me in Chattanooga, but they wouldn't let me because I wasn't any kin to him," Mrs. Wright continued.

Mrs. Janie Patterson, Haywood's mother, is unable to visit her son since suffering a stroke of paralysis at her home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Clarence Norris, the fifth imprisoned youth, is confined in the Jefferson County jail. Norris is under a sentence of death.

APPEALS FILED

Osmond K. Fraenkel, eminent constitutional attorney who handled two previous Scottsboro appeals, has already filed appeals in the cases of the imprisoned boys. Fraenkel was retained by the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 E. 19th St.

An application for a writ of certiorari in the case of Haywood Patterson, who was sentenced in January 1936, has been made to the United States Supreme Court by Fraenkel.

Meanwhile the Scottsboro Defense Commitee, composed of eight national labor and progressive organizations, is in the midst of a campaign to secure defense funds and ten million signatures to a petition to Gov. Bibb Graves of Alabama urging immediate release of all five of the boys.

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Columbia, S. C. Stat
August 21, 1937

Not Helpful to Negroes.

Four of the "Scottsboro boys," against whom charges were dropped are now, says the news, completely "Harlemized." Further, they're going into vaudeville; their skit will be an alleged reproduction of court scenes from their trials in Alabama.

Samuel Leibowitz, the lawyer who defended them and who had a great part in finally securing the freedom of these Negroes, is a smart man. He has a remarkable record for saving his clients from conviction, and up to now, has not lost one to the electric chair. He worked hard to save these from what he was probably sincere in believing to be blind prejudice of the people of Alabama in particular and of the South in general. He was clever enough to have these four released, but he made a mistake when he took them straight to New York to become popular idols of the excitable population of Harlem. He sees now that the "boys," free in the big Northern city, where sensationalism reaches its highest worship are about to undo anything he may have done to increase respect for the Negro race.

These men got into trouble originally from being idle and vagrant. They have been more or less in the public eye ever since. Nothing could be worse for them than this continuance of the opportunity for exhibitionism. What they need, of course, for their own sakes, as well as in the hope of laying the bitterness which "outside interference" arousned over this case, is to get steady jobs, and to live quiet, self-respecting and respectable lives, as millions of their race are doing.

If the promoters of the vaudeville skit with the Scottsboro boys as the heroes are Negroes, they are unwise friends of their own race. If they are white men, they are cruel exploiters of the Negroes.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
August 21, 1937

Will Take to the Stage

The pendulumn is swinging naturally to the other extreme with the four Scottsboro negro youths Samuel Leibowitz, their courthouse champion, carried to New York City in triumph after they were released from the clutches of the law and the threat of the electric chair. Accustomed to solitary confinement behind prison walls save when brought into court at intervals for trial they are beginning to get the real meaning of freedom. Not content with their Roman holiday reception from the denizens of Harlem when they reached New York City and the rounds of feasting and revelry subsequent thereto, these four youths, says a Times news story, have decided to go on the stage and re-enact the court scene at the time of their release. This action they take, so they say, against the advice of their counsellor, Leibowitz. But anyway the four are transformed completely from the type of men they were when they first reached the big town. The news story describes them as blossoming out in new clothes, with their hair slicked to a bright polish, and two of them even sporting walking canes. Says the story: "It seems they have tasted the wine of high living and feel they could stand lots more of it. They have been to Coney Island and to the big movie houses and have been lionized in various negro homes in Brooklyn and in Harlem." Well, as long as the hospitality and good time continues these Scottsboro boys will enjoy their newly found freedom. Meanwhile in the deep South there is lots of cotton to be picked, and a scarcity of field hands.

Statesville, N. C., Record
August 20, 1937

Scottsboro Negroes on the Stage

Not satisfied with the big reception and the celebration given to the Scottsboro case negroes in New York, they now are being lionized to the absurd extent of being given roles to enact on the stage. It is said that they are going to re-enact the court scene in their trial when they were freed.

In fairness, however, it might be mentioned that this is against the advice of their lawyer, Leibowitz. He wants them to learn trades.

It seems, however, that in this instance, they are not taking his advice for the present at least.

This has the appearance of contempt of court to some who have noted the proceedings of this group since they went to New York. It is said that the group has been transformed since they were taken to the big city. They went there in overalls, but now, it is said, they are nattily dressed, wear their hair slicked to a bright polish, and two of the four even sport canes.

We have no objection to seeing any person progress or rise to a higher plane of living; but, in this particular case, it undoubtedly has had a bad influence upon the minds of many negroes to see the treatment accorded these members of their race after their conviction of participation in an unspeakable crime against some white women.

Judge Denies New Trials In Assault Cases

Scottsboro Agreement Given As Reason For Refusal

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., Aug. 28.—(AP)—New trials for three "Scottsboro" defendants were denied today by Judge W. W. Callahan, who revealed an "agreement" by which the 6-year-old assault case was to have ended "for good" in July with freeing of four of the nine accused negroes.

Callahan's ruling laid the groundwork for continuation of the long legal battle and poised the case for a third journey to the U. S. Supreme Court.

The first official revelation of the July "agreement" between State and defense counsel brought a statement from Clarence Watts, associated with Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, in the defense, that he will withdraw from the case "if such an agreement was entered into."

New trials had been asked for Clarence Norris, under death sentence; Andy Wright, given 99 years, and Charlie Weems, under 75-year sentence. All were convicted in the July trials.

Callahan Cites Compact

In ruling on the petitions, Callahan cited a "hard and fast agreement" which, he said, provided if the State would waive capital punishment in remaining cases and release four of the nine original defendants, no appeals would be taken of the other cases, except in that of Norris.

"The whole case was closed under the agreement I just stated," the judge said, "I know of no way to enforce it, however. They can throw their agreement to the winds if they so desire."

Watts, whose home is Huntsville, Ala., argued for the new trial petitions. He was absent due to illness in July when the latest series of "Scottsboro" trials ended under the "agreement," and the four defendants were freed. In a statement after Callahan ruled, Watts declared:

"The first information I had of an agreement not to appeal the cases tried last month at Decatur, came to me today after my arrival here. I am taking steps to get all of the facts relating to the matter. If such an agreement was entered into, I feel morally bound by it, though I was not a party to it, and my firm will withdraw from any further connection with these cases."

Watts Gives Reasons

In asking new trials, Watts cited four grounds:

1. The trial judge was prejudiced against the defendants.
2. The judge's charge relating to conspiracy to rape was in error, since the defndants were not indicted for conspiracy.
3. The State threw doubt on the testimony of Victoria Price, one of the alleged rape victims, against all defendants by contending her evidence against Willie Roberson and Olen Montgomery, two of the four negroes released, was erroneous.
4. The verdicts were against the weight of the evidence.

New trials were asked only for the three negroes convicted at the July trails. Heywood Patterson and Ozie Powell are the others of the five still held.

Patterson was convicted and given 75 years last year. Powell pleaded guilty in July to assaulting an officer in an escape attempt and was given 20 years. Assault charges against Powell were dropped, as they were against the four freed.

Freed Negroes In Harlem

The four negroes given their liberty after six years' imprisonment were Willie Roberson, Olen Montgomery, Eugene Williams and Roy Wright. They are now celebrities in Harlem where it has been announced they will go on the stage.

The U. S. Supreme Court twice saved the defendants from doom, once reversing the Alabama courts on a defense contention they were without adequate counsel at their original trials in Scottsboro, Ala., and a second time remanding the case to Alabama on upholding a defense point that negroes were excluded from jury service in the State. On the latter decision, Alabama revised its jury system.

Alabama charges in the "Scottsboro" case that Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates were attacked by a negro gang aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, March 25, 1931, as the two young white women returned to Huntsville across after seeking work in Tennes-

Appeal Seen In Scottsboro Assault Cases

New Hearing Scheduled Before Trial Judge W. W. Callahan

DECATUR, ALA., Aug. 27.—(AP)—The first step in what may be the third appeal to the United States Supreme Court in the "Scottsboro" case, is scheduled before Judge W. W. Callahan here tomorrow.

Clarence L. Watts, Huntsville, Ala., defense attorney, will ask new trials for Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems and Andy Wright, all convicted of assault here last month in the alleged mass molestation of Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train March 25, 1931.

If Judge Callahan overrules the motion, an appeal to the State Supreme Court is customary under the usual procedure. If the State Supreme Court upholds the convictions, as it has done twice previously, an appeal to the United States Supreme Court is likely.

Norris is under death sentence. Wright was given 99 years and Weems 75 when the prosecution did not ask capital punishment in their cases.

Four of the nine original "Scottsboro" defendants were released here July 24. Another, Ozie Powell, entered a guilty plea to assult with intent to murder in connection with the wounding of a deputy during an escape attempt.

The fifth, Heywood Patterson, was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment here in January, 1936. His conviction has been affirmed by the Alabama Supreme Court but has not been before the United States Supreme Court at Washington.

Watt's motion will be based partially on Judge Callahan's charge to the jury concerning a conviction in the event the jurors believed the defendants involved in a "conspiracy to rape."

The defense contends the negroes were not under indictment for conspiracy and the charge was pre-

was to have ended "for good" in July with freeing of four of the nine accused negroes "by agreement."

Callahan's ruling postponed the case for a third journey to the United States supreme court, which twice reversed Alabama convictions.

The first official disclosure of the July arrangement between counsel brought a statement from Clarence Watts, associated with Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, in the defense, that he will withdraw "if such an agreement was entered into."

New trials have been asked for Clarence Norris, under death sentence; Andry Wright, given 99 years, and Charlie Weems, under 75-year sentence. All were convicted in July of rape for an attack upon Ruby Bates and Mrs. Victoria Price, white women, aboard a freight train March 25, 1931, near Scottsboro, Ala.

The judge cited a "hard and fast agreement" which, he said, provided if the state would waive capital punishment in remaining cases and release four men, only Norris' death sentence would be appealed.

"The whole case was closed under the agreement I just stated," the judge said, "I know of no way to enforce it, however. They can throw their agreement to the winds if they so desire."

NEW TRIALS DENIED 'SCOTTSBORO' TRIC

Judge Rules Agreement Freeing Four of Nine Accused Closed Case.

DECATUR, Ala., Aug. 28.—(AP)—New trials for three Scottsboro convicts were denied today by Judge W. W. Callahan, who said the six-year-old gang rape case

Atty. Samuel A. Leibowitz Scores Those Seeking To Commercialize On Four Freed Scottsboro Boys

Expressing contempt for "those persons who would seek to prostitute for commercial purposes, pecuniary gain and personal aggrandizement the four freed Scottsboro boys", Attorney Samuel Leibowitz, in an official interview granted the press at his offices, 225 Broadway, on Monday, August 23, declared that "the colored people of Harlem should heap condemnation and ridicule on any person or persons, organizations or corporations that exploit the services of these boys because of the world-wide publicity attached to them."

Mr. Leibowitz was referring to the appearance on the stage of the Apollo Theatre on 125th street, of the four boys, Roy Wright, Olin Montgomery, Eugene Williams and Willie Roberson, during the week beginning August 20.

When questioned as to the apparent lack of proper supervision over the boys, Leibowitz said: "They are free agents. They are entitled to do anything they please. I have already done my part; and I should not be expected to look after them now that they are out. I hold my duty to be to those other five who remain in prison and who should also be enjoying the freedom that the others now enjoy."

"I shall bend every effort to bring that about. Soon I shall leave for Alabama to argue a motion for a new trial and to perfect appeals in the cases now pending."

Deep concern was shown by Leibowitz over the present and future actions of the four "for what they do will react favorably or unfavorably on the other cases, dependent on the type of conduct shown."

The Age was unable to learn just what person or persons were responsible for their stage, appearance, but it was disclosed that control over them became lax when John Terry, assistant to Leibowitz and in whose custody they were placed after their arrival in New York, left the city for a much needed vacation; he had given four years of service to the Scottsboro case. Since that time, according to information, they have been looked after by the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, president of the National Afro-Protective League, and pastor of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Brooklyn.

SCOTTSBORO CASE' DEFENSE MAY SPLIT

Alabama Member Threatens Withdrawal Over Alleged 'Agreement'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 29.—(AP)—With Alabama's "Scottsboro case" apparently headed for a third United States supreme court appearance, attention was thrown today to the threat of the Alabama member of the defense committee to withdraw from the case.

Judge W. W. Callahan at Decatur yesterday denied defense motions for new trials for Clarence Norris, under death sentence; and Wright, under 99-year sentence; and Charlie Weems, given 75 years, all for the alleged rape of Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a freight train March, 1931.

When Callahan revealed what he said was a "hard and fast agreement between defense and prosecution," Clarence L. Watts, of Huntsville, Ala., attorney associated with Samuel L. Leibowitz, of New York, in the defense, said:

"If such an agreement was entered into, . . . my firm will withdraw from any further connection with these cases."

Callahan's assertion that the agreement provided that if the state waived capital punishment in certain cases and released four of the nine defendants, no appeals would be taken, except in the case of Norris, brought a statement from Leibowitz.

Attorney General A. A. Carmichael, of Alabama, left him "holding the bag," the New York attorney charged and in Montgomery Carmichael said: "Mr. Leibowitz is an unscrupulous bearer of false witness."

presume that there was an "ironclad agreement" after all.

When the four negroes were freed, Leibowitz hustled them off to New York to the tune of a declaration that he would not tolerate "exploitation." He said that the negroes would be put into vocational schools to learn a trade, and that they would not be allowed to capitalize on their Alabama imprisonment. Despite what Leibowitz said, the reception which he and his wards received in New York smacked strongly of staged ballyhoo and within the week, the negroes were the center attractions on the stage of the Hippodrome at a big mass meeting. Then they began to swing canes, sport spats, and make the Harlem night spots. Now George Ross, New York columnist, comes forth to report that the negroes have really "been taken in hand." "An opportunist agent," he adds, "booked them into vaudeville last week, with an act which strikes bottom for bad taste."

These are just two more chapters in that case which saw Alabama vilified before the nation, and left its courts to emerge as the laughing-stock of the world.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
September 6. 1937

Two More Scottsboro Chapters

CLARENCE WATTS of Huntsville, who has served the Scottsboro "boys" so long and faithfully, has ended his connections with the defense. Judge Callahan, when appeals were asked in the cases of some of the negroes now under sentence, revealed that an "ironclad agreement" had been made in July to end the case "for good", and Watts announced that he would withdraw if such an agreement was entered into. There followed a bristling exchange of statements between Sam Leibowitz and Attorney General Carmichael over this "ironclad agreement," in which they called each other little short of bare-faced liars. And now that Watts has resigned, we are forced to

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Trial Date Set At Scottsboro For 2 Negroes

7-7-37

Trade Is Repudiated Judge Will Clear Entire Docket

BY LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 6.—(AP)—Rumors of "compromise" dissipated today as the stage was set for another series of trials in the widely publicized "Scottsboro case" involving charges of mass rape of two white women by nine negroes.

The alleged assaults occurred six years ago aboard a freight train on which the women had caught a ride to their Huntsville, Ala., home after seeking work in Chattanooga.

Eight of the accused negroes were brought here from a Birmingham, Ala., jail today. Two were arraigned, their trials being set for next week, and Judge W. W. Callahan, the colorful jurist, outlined plans for trials within the next four weeks, of all the remaining defendants.

"God willing," Judge Callahan said "the cases will be cleared from the Morgan Circuit docket."

The judge thus spiked "compromise" reports.

Persons and newspapers interested in ending the six-year-old case had proposed a settlement.

One unofficial report said that under one suggested compromise the negroes would plead guilty to assault, not involving a sex crime, and receive prison sentences.

Death sentences in the case, which has attracted wide interest of persons and organizations outside the State, twice have been overturned by the United States Supreme Court, once, on a defense contention of inadequate counsel, and the second time, on a ruling that negroes had been "systematically excluded" from the jury which indicted the defendants.

The latter decision brought revision in jury selection in several southern States.

Leibowitz On Defense

Agencies outside the State have contributed to the defense.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney, who is chief of defense counsel, was not here today, but will come to Decatur next week when the trials get under way.

Today's proceedings attracted virtually no interest in Decatur and the courtroom was less than one-third filled. Deputies searched all spectators for weapons, however, and Judge Callahan did not allow any person to leave the courtroom until the defendants had been led to their waiting prison truck for transportation back to Birmingham.

Cameras Confiscated

Before the arraignments began, the judge confiscated cameras of press photographers and instructed Sheriff J. Street Sandlin to arrest "anyone found with a camera about this courthouse and bring them before me."

"I don't want any soldiers around any case I am trying," declared the Judge. "And I don't want any cameras either."

The cameras were returned to the newspapermen later.

Seven of the nine negroes have not been before an Alabama jury since April, 1931, when the original trials were held at Scottsboro, Ala., on the charges of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates.

Norris Faces Trial Again

Clarence Norris, whose trial will start Monday, was convicted a second time here in December, 1934, but the other seven brought here today were kept in jail as the cases of Norris and the ninth defendant, Heywood Patterson, were fought through the courts.

Patterson now is under a 75-year sentence, imposed last year after the two Supreme Court reversals of death sentences. He remained in the jail at Birmingham, 90 miles south of here.

Charlie Weems was the second of the negroes arraigned today. His trial was set for Thursday, July 15. Jury venires were drawn in each case, and Callahan announced he would arraign two additional defendants next week, and set two trials each week until the docket was cleared.

Clarence Watts, attorney for the negroes, entered pleas of innocent today for Norris and Weems, further erasing talk of a "compromise."

Watts filed a motion to move the trials to Federal Court, but this promptly was overruled by Callahan. Watts then gave notice of a motion for a change of venue, on which arguments will be heard later. The case already has been moved from Scottsboro to Decatur on change of venue.

Thomas S. Lawson, Alabama assistant attorney general, headed the prosecution staff.

Florida Supreme Court Gets Little Scottsboro Case Again

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., July 9.—The eyes of the world are now focused upon the famous case which originated in Scottsboro, Ala.

But of no less importance to the people of Florida is the famous case which originated at Pampafa, Fla., in May, 1933, when 20 young boys were picked up over night upon suspicion that some of them were guilty of the murder of Robert M. Darsey, a white fish dealer.

A week later Izell Chambers, Charlie Davis, Walter Woodard and Jack Williamson were indicted for murder in the first degree. The grand jury's indictment was based solely upon the alleged confessions of the accused.

These men were sentenced to death in spite of the fact that they denied their guilt and stated that the confessions were forced out of them by Broward county officers after they were in prison.

Atty. McGill Assigned To Case

Atty. S. D. McGill was asked to take the case and he appealed the decision of the lower court to the Supreme Court of Florida. The men already were confined in the death house at Raiford, their heads shaved and their bodies otherwise prepared to take the final walk to the electric chair. But the brilliant appeal to the Supreme Court by Attorney McGill caused Florida's highest court to intervene.

It is interesting to note a few of the comparisons between the Alabama case and Florida's Little Scottsboro case. In both cases the prisoners are members of the Race sentenced to death for an assault upon a white person. Both cases have been tried at one time or another under great fear of mob violence. Both have been before the Supreme Court of their respective states four times.

All Decisions Favorable

But here are the differences: In the Alabama case every judgment that has been rendered by the Supreme Court of Alabama has been against the accused while every judgment that has been rendered by the Supreme Court of Florida has been in favor of the accused.

In the Alabama case the defendants have been represented by white counsel, one of whom received a fee of $10,000 at one of the trials, while the Florida case has been handled entirely by Race counsel until last September and it has been necessary for the attorney of this case to pay the cost out of his own money, to say nothing of the absence of a fee.

The Florida case is now in the Supreme Court for its fifth time in an effort to reverse the sentences of death. Briefs were filed in the courts over a month ago by Atty. McGill who is handling the case. Atty. General Cary D. Landis has just filed his brief in offense and it is now that the lawyers will be called upon to make oral arguments within the next few days.

Athens, Ala., Democrat
June 17, 1937

Throw Away This Body Of Death!

The Advertiser has from the beginning taken the side of the state and its attorneys in the prosecution of the Scottsboro case. It has praised the officers and citizens of Jackson county that prevented a lynching in the first instance. It has commiserated with Jackson county for its peculiar misfortunes in connection with this saga of crime, prejudice, politics and stupidity. Jackson county, you see, had no original interest in this matter. The women concerned were not citizens of that county. The men who are charged with outraging them were not citizens of that county. The two sets of parties to this issue happened to be riding through Jackson county on a freight train, and the men now charged with rape on that occasion happened to be arrested in Jackson. Nevertheless, Jackson had to bear the heavy cost of the first trial and the even heavier cost in notoriety which the name of "Scottsboro" has imposed. Thus Scottsboro, a pleasant little town of the mountains, has been libelled throughout the reaches of civilization, and so, for another reason, The Advertiser has been on Scottsboro's side.

The Advertiser was revolted from the first by the Communistic vermin that swarmed into the picture, without invitation, not to serve justice, that pure and serene lady of mythology, but to make political capital.

When at last the supreme court of the United States reversed an Alabama court that had found one of the defendants guilty, reversing Alabama on the ground that the Alabama jury that was trying a negro had no negro in the panel, The Advertiser jeered the supreme court and intimated that its opinion was suspect due to the fact that no negro was on the nation's highest bench when the opinion was written.

In the meantime, it has been the duty, and the privilege of The Advertiser to defend the good name of Alabama against the stupid slanders of a heathen world.

In 1934 The Advertiser departed from its custom and urged the people of Alabama to elect a certain candidate for lieutenant-governor. Ordinarily this paper does not concern itself with the ambitions of candidates for any office other than governor and United States senator. That year, however, The Advertiser asked the people of Alabama to elect the late lamented Thomas E. Knight, then attorney-general, to the lieutenant-governorship, nowithstanding that at that time he had able and honorable opposition for the office.

Today, however, without any apology for what has been said before in these columns or done by the officers of Alabama's courts, The Advertiser ventures to make this suggestion to the officers of the state, including the attorney-general, the judge and the circuit solicitor who now face the grim business of retrying these revolting cases: Why not collaborate in effecting

a decent compromise?

The Advertiser realizes that rape is a capital offense under the laws of Alabama, however lightly the law-makers of England may have taken the same offense. The Advertiser realizes that in Alabama the rape of a white woman by a negro is commonly regarded as the worst of all possible crimes however culpable the victim may sometimes be. The Advertiser is well aware of the essentially Southern point of view with regard to this question, which controls the thought of Alabamians.

But The Advertiser also knows that the "Scottsboro boys"—now approaching middle-age—committed whatever crime they may have committed, in extraordinary circumstances, and against two women who by all accounts never before had put a high premium upon their virtue, one of whom even went the length upon one occasion of turning state's evidence.

The Advertiser knows, all of its readers know, the whole of this sordid, sickening story. What a nightmare it has been!

What we are trying to get at is this: "Scottsboro" has stigmatized Alabama throughout the civilized world, and every informed person knows it. "Scottsboro" has injured Alabama incalculably.

Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail, since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years, and since they are doing more than all other citizens of Alabama combined to injure the whole people of Alabama before the world, since nothing worth while can be gained by the state in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end, The Advertiser herewith takes it upon itself to suggest and urge that the state now move for a decent, dignified compromise.

The Advertiser confesses that it is sensitive to the question of public policy involved as well as the question of personal human justice. Let Alabama be true to the principle of justice for even the lowliest human being. Let Alabama be very just, especially for the friendless and underprivileged; but let Alabama also be true to itself—let it think and act according to the dictates of enlightened public policy and public service.

Nothing can be gained by demanding the final pound of [illegible] and The Advertiser has begun to believe, even to know, that it is not the wish of the state to exact the final pound of flesh.

On the other hand, Alabama has nothing to apologize for in the premises. Thus far the state has done nothing but its simple, plain duty.

But what of the future? What should we now do to shake this body of death that is "Scottsboro?" Enlightened public opinion in Alabama will, in The Advertiser's opinion, applaud any official concerned, who now strikes out for an honorable, fair and just settlement of these messy cases.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
June 25, 1937

Revolt Against a Body of Death

The news that the Scottsboro case is coming up for a new phase of legal combat cannot be pleasing to anybody. But there promises to be a change in an atmosphere of truculence when a newspaper so influential as the Montgomery *Advertiser*, which hitherto has favored punishment for the Negroes involved, declares there is room for reasonable doubt concerning the guilt of all the Negroes and calls for a compromise that will rid the State of Alabama of the case forever.

The *Advertiser* makes this declaration in an editorial captioned "This Body of Death." It is a striking caption, and one that many persons will deem appropriate. Alabama cannot take any pride in the fact that the case has dragged itself through so many courts and has been accompanied by episodes that must have grated upon the conscience of all its people.

What is disquieting about this turn in affairs, however, is the demand from certain Alabama citizens, reflected in letters to the newspapers, that the prosecution fight the case to the end and bring the Negroes to the gallows. The ground of this demand is that any hesitancy in prosecution now will invite a return to lynch law. "Any person asking for a compromise now," says one letter in the *Advertiser*, "will be responsible for the people of this State resorting to the methods of lynching as a means of obtaining justice in like cases in the future."

Such appeals raise an old bogey which is in itself a body of death. The spectre of possible lynching has many times been invoked as a device for influencing court decisions. It is a death's-head that those States afflicted by lynching mobs will eventually have to bury, and it would be better for all concerned if it were buried now. The suggestion as to a compromise settlement indicates that the blind emotion surrounding the Scottsboro case has begun to abate. But is there no way to determine once and for all the complete innocence or the complete guilt of the defendants? A compromise may rid Alabama of a case that has often disturbed its thoughts, but is a compromise a substitute for justice?

Justice Lynched

The defense and the prosecution frequently agree upon the charge brought against an accused person. But it is something new to "swap" the rights of one prisoner for another as Alabama's Judge Callahan says was done with the Scottsboro boys. He bluntly refused the convicted ones a new hearing on the ground that conviction for some and acquittal for others was the agreement.

It is very evident that Alabama is eager to have done with the Scottsboro case which brought nothing but expense and a blemished reputation. It should have turned them all loose. It chose to convict part of them, though the evidence it offered at previous trials was against all. By so doing, it confesses lack of good faith from the beginning.

The Scottsboro case will continue to haunt Alabama like Banquo's ghost. It was conceived in hate, prosecuted on perjured testimony and won when 12 men under oath to judge impartially reflected the mob so absolutely that the supreme court of the United States sent the case back time and again for retrial.

This paper believes that the doer of injustice is worse hurt by it than is its victim. For the moment these poor boys in prison

are examples of abject misery, and their persecutors seem both happy and successful. But the means by which the state secured conviction fly in the face of the principles and practices which the founders of this country said were the safeguards of human liberty. Alabama and Thomas Jefferson cannot both be right.

The citizen is subject to the state by American law. Therefore Alabama has been free to deal with the Scottsboro boys without interference. But the state's authority is only a legal figment. In actual living all men are neighbors. No state line saves the rest of the country from the effect of what goes on in Alabama. The proof of men's interdependence is the associate supreme court justice recently appointed. The habits of thought of Judge Hugo L. Black are Alabama made, but from this time on will be national in their influence.

The Scottsboro case is important not so much for what it means in human lives, as for the precedent it sets in court procedure. A motor car accident takes lives, but deliberate sabotage of the courts kills America.

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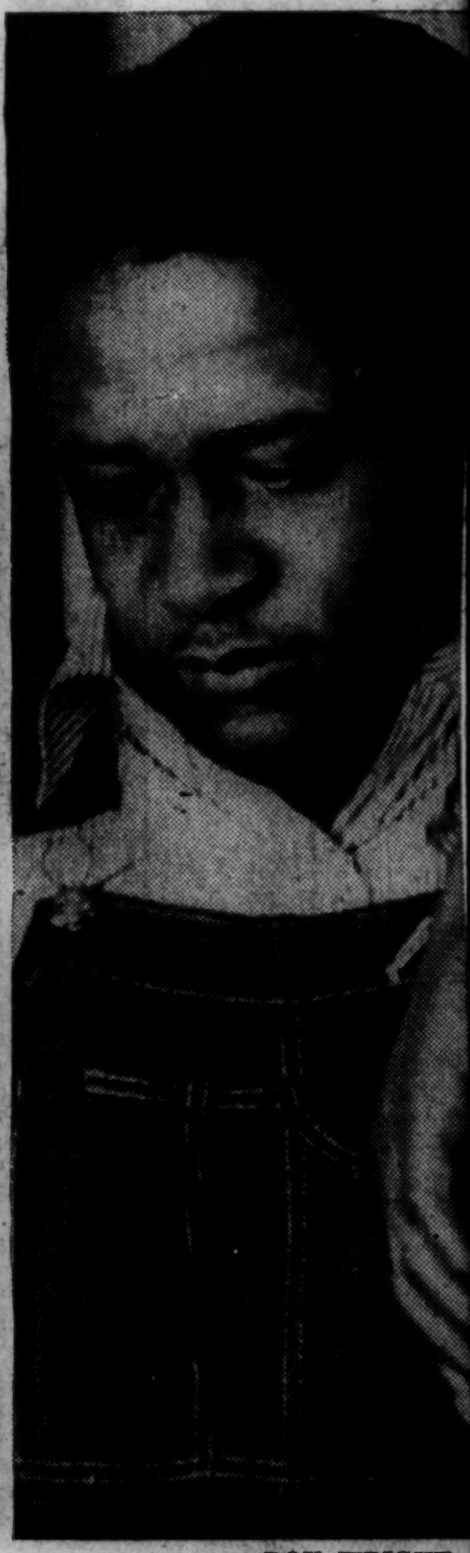
Four Freed Scottsboro Boys Greeted on Arrival Here

Thousands of New Yorkers thronged Pennsylvania Station yesterday to greet the arrival here of the four freed Scottsboro Boys. Friends and admirers of the boys surged past police lines to get near the four brave young Negroes who have spent six and one-half years in the shadow of Alabama's electric chair. Part of the crowd is shown below. James W. Ford, Negro leader and member of the Communst Party's Central Committee, can be seen on the left. One of the Scottsboro Boys is being rushed through the throngs. —Daily Worker Staff Photos

EUGENE WILLIAMS



ROY WRIGHT

Scottsboro Boys Hailed at Station; To Attend Hipp Victory Meeting

EUGENE WILLIAMS ROY WRIGHT WILLIE ROBERSON OLIN MONTGOMERY

Two of them still dressed in the denim garb of Alabama's prisons, four of the Scottsboro boys are shown above as they arrived here yesterday. The Scottsboro Defense Committee yesterday voted to renew with redoubled efforts the fight for the full freedom of the other boys, Andy Wright, Clarence Norris, Ozie Powell, Heywood Patterson and Charlie Weems.

Daily Worker Staff Photo.

An Unfortunate Sequel

IT is to be generally regretted that the racial and interracial forces responsible for the freedom of the four Scottsboro boys could not rescue them from the channels of exploitation into which they seemed to have fallen.

It is hard to believe that they, of their own choice—even though inexperienced in the methods of unscrupulous persons and opportunists who thrive on human suffering—would have turned their backs upon their benefactors to seek an uncertain future on the stage.

From this distance, it appears that they have fallen under influences inimical to their own interests and are headed for some bitter experiences.

Immediate concern should be for the boys' character, health, and education. Besides, they have a moral responsibility to those guardians of liberty and justice who stood watch with them in their Gethsemane.

It will hurt this generation of underprivileged people, and the next, if the forces of exploitation and opportunism are permitted to turn the significant victory won over intolerance and injustice in Alabama to be converted into a fiasco.

It is yet to be hoped that reason and morality will triumph in the end, and that, for the good of their comrades still lingering on the cross of prejudice in Alabama, a truce can be effected in the battle royal for exclusive rights to order their lives in their new found freedom.

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THROW AWAY THIS BODY OF DEATH!

The Advertiser has from the beginning taken the side of the State and its attorneys in the prosecution of the Scottsboro cases. It has praised the officers and citizens of Jackson county that prevented a lynching in the first instance. It has commiserated with Jackson county for its peculiar misfortunes in connection with this saga of crime, prejudice, politics and stupidity. Jackson county, you see, had no original interest in this matter. The women concerned were not citizens of that county. The men who [illegible] outraging [illegible] that county. The two sets of parties to this issue happened to be riding through Jackson county on a freight train, and the men now charged with rape on that occasion happened to be arrested in Jackson. Nevertheless, Jackson had to bear the heavy cost of the first trial and the even heavier cost in notoriety which the name of "Scottsboro" has imposed. Thus Scottsboro, a pleasant little town of the mountains, has been libelled throughout the reaches of civilization, and so, for another reason The Advertiser has been on Scottsboro's side.

The Advertiser was revolted from the first by the Communistic vermin that swarmed into the picture, without invitation, not to serve justice, that pure and serene lady of mythology, but to make political capital.

When at last the Supreme Court of the United States reversed an Alabama court that had found one of the defendants guilty, reversing Alabama on the ground that the Alabama jury that was trying a Negro had no Negro in the panel, The Advertiser jeered the Supreme Court and intimated that its opinion was suspect due to the fact that no Negro was on the nation's highest bench when the opinion was written.

In the meantime, it has been the duty and the privilege of The Advertiser to defend the good name of Alabama against the stupid slanders of a heathen world.

In 1934 The Advertiser departed from its custom and urged the people of Alabama to elect a certain candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. Ordinarily this paper does not concern itself with the ambitions of candidates for any office other than Governor and United States Senator. That year however, The Advertiser asked the people of Alabama to elect the late lamented Thomas E. Knight, then Attorney-General to the Lieutenant-Governorship, notwithstanding that at that time he had able and honorable opposition for the office. The Advertiser argued that Tommy Knight should be elected Lieutenant-Governor as a rebuke by Alabama to the outer world for the contumely and slander that it had heaped upon our State because of the Scottsboro cases. Mr. Knight was elected Lieutenant-Governor.

In 1935 when Albert A. Carmichael, Knight's successor as Attorney-General announced that he had retained Mr. Knight to press the prosecution of the "Scottsboro boys", The Advertiser commended his wisdom and patriotism, and urged the Attorney-General to see the prosecution through to the bitter end. That was the last comment, until now, that The Advertiser made upon this ugly affair.

The Advertiser, in other words, is a holdout. It has been deeply incensed by the conduct of the more vociferous "friends" of the Scottsboro boys and has had little sympathy with their antics. Today marks the first release from its original mood.

Today, however, without any apology for what has been said before in these columns or done by the officers of Alabama's courts, The Advertiser ventures to make this suggestion to the officers of the State, including the Attorney-General, the judge and the circuit solicitor who now face the grim business of re-trying these revolting cases: Why not collaborate in effecting a decent compromise?

The Advertiser realizes that rape is a capital offense under the laws of Alabama, however lightly the law-makers of England may have taken the same offense. The Advertiser realizes that in Alabama the rape of a white woman by a Negro is commonly regarded as the worst of all possible crimes, however culpable the victim may sometimes be. The Advertiser is well aware of the essentially Southern point of view with regard to this question, which controls the thought of Alabamians.

But The Advertiser also knows that the "Scottsboro boys"—now approaching middle-age—committed whatever crime they may have committed, in extraordinary circumstances, and against two women who by all accounts never before had put a high premium upon their virtue, one of whom even went the length upon one occasion of turning State's evidence.

The Advertiser knows, all of its readers know, the whole of this sordid, sickening story. What a nightmare it has been!

What we are trying to get at is this: "Scottsboro" has stigmatized Alabama throughout the civilized world, and every informed person knows it. "Scottsboro" has injured Alabama incalculably.

Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail, since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years, and since they are doing more than all other citizens of Alabama combined to injure the whole people of Alabama before the world, since nothing worth while can be gained by the State in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end, The Advertiser herewith takes it upon itself to suggest and urge that the State now move for a decent, dignified compromise.

The Advertiser confesses that it is sensitive to the question of public policy involved as well as the question of personal human justice. Let Alabama be true to the principle of justice for even the lowliest human being. Let Alabama be very just especially for the friendless and underprivileged; but let Alabama also be true to itself—let it think and act according to the dictates of enlightened public policy and public service.

Nothing can be gained by demanding the final pound of flesh, and The Advertiser has reason to believe, even to know, that it is not the wish of the State to exact the final pound of flesh.

On the other hand, Alabama has nothing to apologize for in the premises. Thus far the State has done nothing but its simple plain duty.

But what of the future? What should we now do to shake this body of death that is "Scottsboro?" Enlightened public opinion in Alabama, will, in The Advertiser's opinion, applaud any official concerned, who now strikes out for an honorable, fair and just settlement of these messy cases.

Letters To The Editor

Please be brief. We reserve the right to cut letters more than 300 words long

PROTEST!

Editor The Advertiser:

After reading your editorial concerning the Scottsboro case in The Advertiser of June 12th, I would like to ask what you suggest as a "decent compromise?" Just because the State's name has been stigmatized by the affair is the crime any less a capital offense than it was? And do you think by a weak and entirely unwarranted compromise now it would in any way help the situation? That would be playing right into the hands of the "belled buzzards" who have swarmed into our State to meddle and obstruct justice—just the move they would like to see us make.

I, too, am sensitive as you claim to be to a question of public policy involved, but no policy we adopt should be swayed by the false doctrines of our enemies, and Alabama must at all times be true to herself. We as a State cannot afford to compromise with a wrong that has been committed. Our laws must be upheld, and no matter if the prisoners remain in jail 6 years, 12 years, 40 years, the case should be prosecuted to a just conclusion. There can be no "decent, dignified compromise".

You said in your editorial "The Advertiser has reason to believe, even to know, that it is not the wish of the State to exact the final pound of flesh." May I ask just whom you mean by the State? Could you by any chance mean the

Attorney-General? It would be unthinkable to have any officer of the State unwilling to prosecute this case to the end, or make any gesture of compromise to placate the enemies of our State. Any officer who would be willing to compromise this case now would be unworthy to serve the State any longer, and should resign, or be impeached.

Any compromise would simply make lynching a necessity for like crimes, if justice is to be simply side-stepped as you suggest. If any officer in the State should be unwilling to prosecute this case vigorously to the end he is simply inviting a return to lynch law. And any person asking for a compromise now will be responsible for the people of this State resorting to the methods of lynching as a means of obtaining justice in like cases in the future if justice cannot be obtained by the usual methods of State prosecution.

I doubt your opinion advanced that the public will applaud any official who seeks to compromise this case. I think the public demonstrated how it felt in the whole-hearted election of the late Thomas Knight to the office of Lieutenant-Governor, and I believe had he lived he could have had any public office in the State, reflecting the public's approval of his vigorous prosecution of the Scottsboro case.

Your editorial said further, "The State has thus far done nothing but its simple, plain duty". As thinking citizens of the State we have every right to expect the State to continue to do its simple, plain duty.

MRS. J. F. DUGGAR, JR.

Hope Hull, Ala.

SCOTTSBORO COMPROMISE IS ADVOCATED

The Montgomery Advertiser Asks State To Effect 'A Decent Finish'

'INJURY INCALCULABLE'

'Cases Have Stigmatized Alabama Throughout Civilized World'

MONTGOMERY, June 12.—(Special.)—The Montgomery Advertiser which from the beginning has taken the side of the state and its attorneys in the prosecution of the nine Negro defendants in the Scottsboro attack cases, today advocated editorially a compromise to end the controversy.

The Advertiser, the largest newspaper in Alabama outside of Birmingham, and generally regarded as reflecting conservative opinion of South Alabama, declared that the Scottsboro cases "have stigmatized Alabama throughout the civilized world and every informed person knows it. 'Scottsboro' has injured Alabama incalculably."

Held Six Years

"Without any apology for what has been said in these columns before or done by the officers of Alabama's courts," the editorial continues, "The Advertiser ventures to make this suggestion to the officers of the state, who now face the grim business of retrying these revolting cases: Why not collaborate in effecting a decent compromise?"

Convictions in the Scottsboro cases have twice been reversed by the United States Supreme Court and a death sentence against Heywood Patterson, the Negro against whom the state is generally assumed to have its strongest case, was set aside by former Circuit Judge James E. Horton of Athens. Judge Horton was subsequently defeated for re-election, his defeat being attributed to his action in this trial.

Compromise Outlined

The Negroes were arrested on March 24, 1931, on charges preferred by two white women hoboes who asserted the Negroes had attacked them on a moving freight train near Stevenson. Miss Ruby Bates, one of the alleged victims, subsequently reversed herself in court and said she had not been assaulted. The other woman, Mrs. Victoria Price, repeated the charges.

The Negroes have been held in Alabama jails, principally at Birmingham, where they are now confined, since their arrest six years ago.

A group of Alabama citizens for the last two years has been cooperating with liberal elements in the North in trying to effect a compromise. Prominent church leaders head the Alabama group working for a compromise.

The compromise most often suggested has been a reduction of the attack charges to assault and battery, with retroactive sentences to be satisfied by the six years' imprisonment the Negroes already have undergone.

The Advertiser's editorial today is entitled "Throw Away This Body of Death!" Veteran editor of The Advertiser is Grover Cleveland Hall, a native South Alabamian who won the Pulitzer Prize several years ago for his paper's brilliant fight against the Ku Klux Klan.

The editorial says, in part:

"The Advertiser was revolted from the first by the Communistic vermin that swarmed into the picture, without invitation, not to serve justice, that pure and serene lady of mythology, but to make political capital . . .

Defended State's Honor

"In the meantime, it has been the duty, and the privilege of The Advertiser to defend the good name of Alabama against the stupid slanders of a heathen world . . .

"The Advertiser realizes that rape is a capital offense under the laws of Alabama, however lightly the lawmakers of England may have taken the same offense. The Advertiser realizes that in Alabama the rape of a white woman by a Negro is commonly regarded as the worst of all possible crimes, however culpable the victim may sometimes be.

But The Advertiser also knows that the "Scottsboro boys'—now approaching middle-age — committed whatever crime they may have committed, in extraordinary circumstances, and against two women, who by all accounts never before had put a high premium upon their virtue, one of whom even went the length upon one occasion of turning state's evidence.

"Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail and since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years ...enlightened public opinion in Alabama, will, in The Advertiser's opinion, applaud any official concerned, who now strikes out for an honorable, fair and just settlemennt of the messy cases."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 24, 1937

SCOTTSBORO 'COMPROMISE.'

The reported "compromise" in the notorious Scottsboro cases is not one calculated to arouse enthusiasm on the part of the prisoners. On the eve of submitting the cases to the tenth jury to pass upon them in the past six years, two of the leading newspapers in Alabama, the Montgomery *Advertiser*, and the Birmingham *Age-Herald*, urged that the State agree to a compromise and eliminate from its record "this body of death." It develops that the compromise involves a demand for the slow death of the defendants through long prison sentences instead of quick death by electrocution.

There is not a sadder story in the annals of American jurisprudence than that of the Negroes who for the past six years have lived in the shadow of the electric chair. Twice they have been saved from the electric chair by the Supreme Court, which has overturned death sentences imposed by Alabama courts. The only compromise worthy of the name would be a decision on the part of the State to drop the charges against the defendants and give them their liberty.

It is not profitable at this late date to go over the dreary record of the case. It seems many more than six years ago since the nine Negroes were charged with having criminally molested two young white women aboard a freight train. To the Negroes, the intervening period must seem a lifetime. Persons who have read the court records of the convictions and the appeals and the reversals have every reason to believe either that the Negroes are not guilty of the crime with which they are charged or that the doubt is too great to warrant conviction.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 21, 1937

Let-Up in the Scottsboro Cases

The decision of the prosecution in the Scottsboro cases not to ask for the death penalty in the trial of Andy Wright, the third of the nine defendants, marks the first time in six and a half years that the slightest official sign of a let-up by the State of Alabama has been visible.

Even now doubt remains as to the full meaning of this change of tactics. One defendant, Clarence Norris, has been convicted and sentenced to be executed. Another, Heywood Patterson, who has been convicted and sentenced to death three times previously, has now been convicted and sentenced to 75 years' imprisonment. Presumably the State of Alabama, having been satisfied in some degree by these two results, will not try for the extreme penalty in the six remaining cases. All that is visible now is this slight lessening of the fury of the prosecution in the Wright case.

But at least little doubt exists as to what has thus moved the prosecution. It is weary of the whole job of continuing this struggle. The orginal ferocity has gone, to be succeeded by a determination to keep up the fight, but without the confidence which marked the earlier years. How otherwise is this abandonment of the death plea to be explained? On a clear-cut issue of a criminal assault by a Negro on a white woman there can be no question of what Alabama would do. The point now is that the issue, in a growing number of Alabama minds, is no longer clear-cut. To much of the remainder of the country, it never was. The whole situation was covered with doubt. It was clouded over by contradictory statements, strange questions of personal character, and the poisonous atmosphere of racial hatreds.

Something of this unavoidable truth has penetrated into regions and mentalities which hitherto have resisted all suggestions of uncertainty. What eventually will come out of this long struggle is still too far off to be defined with confidence. But the signs of a slowly changing attitude are unmistakable. If they continue, the hope of approximating justice is brighter than it has ever been.

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OBSERVERS WATCH LEIBOWITZ MOVES

Mrs. Bates Given Call; White Jurors Selected

(Special to the AFRO)

DECATUR, Ala. — The Scottsboro trials got underway again here this week with Clarence Norris facing a possible death verdict while court observers awaited a new dramatic development promised by Samuel Leibowitz, chief defense counsel.

The New York attorney has summoned Mrs. Emma Bates, white mother of Ruby Bates, who recanted the attack story to aid in fighting to free the nine boys in the case.

Goes on Mission

Before the trial of Norris was started Monday before Judge W. W. Callahan, Leibowitz left suddenly for Birmingham during the selection of jurors. He said that a major development would follow, although there was no evidence that a compromise would be reached.

Clarence Watts of Huntsville, Ala., and William Richter of New York were left in charge of the defense while Mr. Leibowitz went on his mission. An all-white jury was selected Monday when two colored men who qualified for service were rejected by the State.

Victoria Price Testified

Victoria Price, former hobo girl, who has stuck to her accusations against the boys, took the stand Tuesday and charged that Norris was the first of six youths to assault her.

She said that one boy held a knife at her throat while the others took part in the attack. This, she said, followed their expulsion of a group of white youths riding a freight train near Scottsboro six years ago.

The Price woman insisted that twelve colored boys were in the group which she accused of invading the gondola where she and Ruby Bates rode.

Leibowitz Traps Her

Leibowitz succeeded in trapping the Bates woman in a contradiction when he cross-questioned her on details of the alleged attack. There she said that she had fifty cents in her purse at the time. The attorney produced the transcript of the 1931 trial in Scottsboro in which she stated that she had $1.50.

The defense counsel's regard for minute detail brought down the wrath of Judge Callahan, who wants to dispose of eight defendants in four weeks.

Judge Reprimands Him

"If you keep up this argument," the jurist said, "you won't have anything to tell the jury. I'm going to excuse you this time because I realize you are young and inexperienced."

Charlie Weems is scheduled to go on trial as soon as Norris's case is concluded.

Ruby Bates is not present.

Norris Goes On Trial Minus Race Juror

Ruby Bates' Mother Is Surprise Witness At Hearing

DECATUR, Ala. — Clarence Norris, one of the nine defendants in the Scottsboro cases, went on trial for his life in Morgan County Circuit Court here Monday without a member of his race on the jury.

A jury of twelve white men was chosen late in the afternoon after two Negroes in the final group to be challenged had been struck off by the State. Only three members of Norris' race however were included in the special venire of 100 which were sworn in shortly after court convened at nine a. m.

Judge W. W. "Speed" Callahan, presiding, called prospective jurymen to the bar in groups of six for detailed questioning. Each was asked: "Could you give the evidence in this case the same consideration if the defendant were a white man?"

Questioning of the first six jurors required 45 minutes. Only two were excused because of a "fixed opinion." Norris and seven of his companions were brought here from the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham under a heavy guard of Alabama State Highway patrolmen.

100 MEMBERS ON PANEL

Of the 100 members of the jury panel Judge Callahan drew a regular panel of 35 and a special venire of 65, the maximum permitted under Alabama law, to try Norris and Charlie Weems who, according to the scheduled mapped out by the court, will go to trial on Thursday of this week.

At least twenty witnesses have been summmoned by the State in its effort to find the eight defendants guilty of attacking Mrs. Victoria Price aboard a freight train between Stevenson and Paint Rock, Alabama in March, 1931.

Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, fired the first guns in his campaign Monday by summoning as a surprise witness, Mrs. Emma Bates, mother of Ruby Bates, one of the original complainants in the case who has since repudiated her charges that she was attacked along with Mrs. Price.

Leibowitz forcast "a major development" as he left hurriedly for Birmingham even while the jury to try Norris was being selected. The task of challenging each prospective juror for the defense fell to Clarence Watts of Huntsville, and William Richter of New York, associate of Leibowitz.

VICTORIA PRICE PRESENT

The famed New York attorney gave no hint of the reason for his trip to Birmingham other than to deny that it concerned any compromise settlement of the cases.

Mrs. Price was present and ready to tell the story which has three times condemned Heywood Patterson to the electric chair, and which at his last trial here in December, 1936 resulted in a 75-year prison sentence.

Patterson's appeal to the Alabama State Supreme Court has been denied and he is now in the Jefferson County jail awaiting an appeal to the United States Supreme Court which has saved him from the death chair three times already.

A POLITICAL FOOTBALL'

The now famous Scottsboro case has been re-opened in Decatur, Alabama, with eight youths facing a judge who, they know in advance, has no respect for their black faces. In the parlance of baseball, they go to bat with two strikes already called.

This case is a six-year-old legal battle that has gradually become the political football of Alabama "statesmen." The late Thomas Knight, once Alabama attorney-general, was kited into the office of Lieutenant Governor through his activity in it as prosecutor, and there are others today in public life in Alabama who want the Scottsboro case to linger in the courts until they have gained their political objectives.

Through the Scottsboro case all of the inherent prejudices of the lowly southern white man have been given free expression and national airing. He has taken a mole-hill and created a mountain; he has made it strictly a battle between North and South, stooping to every cunning and illegal trick to carry his point; stopping just short of murdering one of the defendants.

Since it became a legal issue it has bankrupted a county; it has permitted nine young boys to grow to manhood behind prison bars; it has made political careers for some, and ruined others; it has annoyed the U. S. Supreme Court and lifted the black man from a seat as spectator of trials in the South into the jury box in the class of the "peers." And all of this has become a part of the legal and political history of Alabama and the nation-at-large because a common, jungle-camp, itinerant prostitute continues to maintain that her already defiled body was "violated" by a group of hoboing black boys.

Victoria Price, the state's main witness, has been repudiated by her former companion of the scarlet path, Ruby Bates, who seeing the error of her way, confessed her part in the frame-up and seeks today to live a better life among new-found friends and wholesome environments. Ruby came North; Victoria stayed South—that explains another phase of the case and the issues involved.

The whole thing reeks with insincerity on the part of Alabama law-makers, and is dripping wet with crocodile tears. In no other state, save a backward one where race prejudice is always the paramount issue, would the legal machinery throw its full strength behind the sole testimony of a self-confessed harlot against counter-denials of ten other witnesses, one of whom was a party to creating the unsavory problem.

But anything may happen in Alabama. It was one of the first states to shoot bullet holes through the Stars and Stripes, and ever since the reign of Jeff Davis has had difficulty in defining the word JUSTICE.

Scottsboro 'Hobo Girl' Grows Hazy

(Special to The Amsterdam News—by Wire.)

DECATUR, Ala., July 14.—Mrs. Victoria Price, allegedly attacked by nine Negro boys on a freight train between Stevenson and Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931, made conflicting statements under oath at the trial of Clarence Norris, which got under way here Monday. Ruby Bates, who allegedly was also attacked by the nine Scottsboro boys along with Mrs. Price, but who later denied it in the witness chair, was not present in court.

Victoria Price testified yesterday that she and Ruby Bates were alone when they boarded a freight train in Chattanooga on their return trip to Alabama. The statement was wrung out of her by Samuel Leibowitz, attorney for the Scottsboro boys. At the first trial, which was held in Scottsboro, Mrs. Price testified that she and Ruby Bates were with two men when they boarded the freight train on which they were supposedly raped.

She also testified yesterday that she had fifty cents and a pocket knife when she was attacked; in the first hearing she swore that she had $1.50. The two men who were said by Mrs. Price to have been with her and Ruby Bates on the train were "unable to attend the trial" yesterday.

Mr. Leibowitz, in a masterful cross-examination, was able to cause Mrs. Price to change her testimony in what may be a vital point—that concerning the two men on the freight train with her and Ruby Bates. Since the latter has long since sworn under oath that the Scottsboro boys were framed, any important changes in the testimony made by Mrs. Price in the present trial of Norris will, it was predicted, injure the case of the prosecution.

All of Monday was used in the selection of twelve jurors out of the sixty-six men who qualified. Eleven of them were excused because of fixed opinions about the case. Five were excused because they did not believe in capital punishment.

Three Negroes were included in the sixty-six. One was excused because he did not believe in capital punishment; the other two were struck by the state from the time court opened until noon recess.

Using the words of a dead man to refute the charges of Victoria Price, Leibowitz brought into the testimony again the statements under oath of Dr. R. R. Bridges of Scottsboro, who testified that neither Ruby Bates nor Victoria Price had been raped at the time they said. Dr. Bridges died soon after Haywood Patterson, one of the defendants, was convicted and sentenced to seventy-five years' imprisonment a year and a half ago, after he had been saved from the electric chair twice by the United States Supreme Court and once by a local judge who since has been retired from the bench.

Dr. Bridges was called in the original Scottsboro case, but has been ignored, except by the defense, since Patterson's last conviction.

In spite of her conflicting testimony, mannishly attired Victoria Price, who, when she was allegedly attacked, was dressed in rags and was a female hobo, told the jury yesterday that "half a dozen Negroes raped her aboard the freight train six years ago. Determined to send Clarence Norris to the electric chair, she said that he was one of twelve Negroes who "jumped into the gondola" in which she and Ruby Bates were riding and that several white men in the car were ordered to "unload."

"What did the Negroes do then?" asked Assistant Attorney-General Thomas S. Lawson.

"They raped me," she said—her thin, pale lips [illegible] her testimony.

Contrary to the story of Mrs. Price that she was brutally beaten, Dr. Bridges had testified that he found only a few small scratches on her forearms and a bruise the "size of a pecan nut in the small of her back." Her pulse and respiration were normal—a condition most unusual for a woman who had been allegedly raped.

Victoria was the first witness today. Mr. Leibowitz had Mrs. Bates, mother of the missing boy, brought in to be identified by the complainant. Mrs. Bates stood before the angry, scowling witness. It was her first appearance in any trial as a future witness for the defense.

"Is it not true that you took Ruby Bates across the Alabama state line for immoral purposes?" Mr. Leibowitz asked.

"Ruby Bates asked me to go with her," Victoria answered angrily.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 22, 1937

How Much Longer Will It Last?

ONE Scottsboro defendant is sentenced to death, another to 99 years imprisonment. Others will be duly sentenced again and the nauseous case will drag itself on, to shame the South and the North and to prove in glaring fashion how badly Americans can muddle things when they get a *cause celebre* to play with.

Ten juries in six years have acted on the Scottsboro case.

If the publicity-loving Mr. Liebowitz would withdraw from the case a compromise might be reached. But he insists upon looking on Alabama as a State filled with Jeeter Lesters and hookworms, and he periodically parades his Broadway "main stem" legal tactics before the South.

"See," he seems to shout, "I, Liebowitz, will prevent these Southern morons from 'lynching' these boys. I, the great Liebowitz, the great Liberal."

"The death penalty alone will suffice," answer hot-headed Alabamans. "Southern womanhood, chivalry, black fiends and what other adjectives have you——?"

"What a horrible mess that Scottsboro case is," says Mrs. So-andSo, from an old Southern family. "And yet, if that Painted Rock flatcar outrage were to go unpunished, what safety would Southern women have? And that horrible Liebowitz!"

"The rights of the Negro must be protected with gestures and with national fund-raising campaigns," say the Societies for the Advancement of This and That.

And we have all forgotten the circumstances which placed the nine ignorant Negro roustabouts in prison, and caused the white glare to beat upon their heads from a world which loves a sordid sensation and which would rather argue than settle a point.

And nobody seems to know where the two white women are who were bumming a ride on a freight when the outrage occurred, though at last accounts one of them was being used as a dummy by a radical group.

The Scottsboro case—that shabby, two-bit *cause celebre*—how much longer—how much longer!

Huntsville, Ala., Spectator
July 23, 1937

LET'S WASH UP THE SCOTTSBORO LINEN

For six years the enemies of Alabama have been making capital out of the Scottsboro case. A play, based on the case and depicting the people of Alabama as tobacco-chewing bigots incapable of dispensing justice, has been written and produced throughout the North. Impassioned speeches have been made, even in Europe, for funds to "save these innocent children from being thrown to the lions of Southern bigotry."

Books have been written about the case, and all of them have been to the discredit of the state. Most of the reams of news copy have pictured the negroes as martyrs fighting against a cruel and unjust fate.

These charges have, in the main, been false. And against them we might be justified in adopting a relentless, "burn 'em or bust" attitude. But such is no longer the course of wisdom.

The Scottsboro Case, paraded before the Supreme Court, is a poor advertisement for Alabama. It has bankrupted one county and has laid a tremendous cost burden on the state. The prosecution is now in the position of prosecuting half the negroes for attacking a woman who denies that the attack occurred.

At whatever reasonable cost, let's be rid of the whole mess. Judge Callahan and the Attorney-General can render the state a real service by taking whatever steps are necessary to wash the Scottsboro case off the court docket of Alabama.

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Two Race Men Are Turned Down By The State

DECATUR, Ala., July 16—(Special)—An all white jury will hear the evidence of the first defendant, Clarence Norris, in the famous Scottsboro case which got under way here this week.

The twelve white men were chosen late Monday. Two members of the Race who qualified as jurors were flatly refused by the state, Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel said he planned a surprise attack which he hopes will cause the boys to win their freedom. It has been hinted that Victoria Price, one of the two girls who was supposedly attacked by the nine youths, will aid the defense along with Ruby Bates.

DECATUR, Ala., July 16—Alabama's headache, the "Scottsboro case" was resumed briskly here Tuesday morning [illegible] the support of an important section of Alabama [illegible] opinion, which had come to believe the defendants not guilty, on the side of the defense. For seven long, tortuous years, the defendants, now reduced to eight, have clung tenaciously to hope and a belief that God will see justice done.

The arraignment in Circuit court last week marked a new episode in the lengthy legal drama based on the story of two white girls, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price that they were raped by nine Race youths while aboard a freight car on March 25, 1931. Haywood Patterson, the ninth defendant, is under a 75-year sentence which is expected to be appealed to the United States Supreme court, which has set aside two previous death verdicts in the case.

"Ace in Hole"

One main "ace in the hole" that the defense will have is the likelihood of Victoria Price refuting her early statements that the boys raped her, since the recent death of Thomas Knight, Alabama attorney general. It has been generally believed that Knight coaxed the girls into signing a statement to the effect that the boys had raped them. As attorney general he wanted their prosecution and demanded death in the electric chair for the nine youths.

Each trial in the seven years of the case's duration, while resulting in a formal conviction in the Alabama courts, has served only to strengthen the belief of millions throughout the world in the innocense of the defandants and unite world opinion in a battle for their freedom.

State Ready to Drop Case

The case has dragged out eighteen months without a move on the part of the prosecution and recent observations point to the fact that the state of Alabama has hoped the public would forget the Scottsboro boys and leave them to their fate. The element of finance has influenced the state's desire to rid itself of the case which has produced a dark blotch upon Alabama's character.

In speedily disposing of the cases, Judge W. W. Calahan has scheduled the eight trials to be called at the rate of two a week.

Atty. Samuel S. Leibowitz, widely known criminal lawyer and head of the defense boards of strategy in the Scottsboro case, is on hand for the trials. Leibowitz promises that the defense will accept no compromise. "The fight," he declared, "will go on until freedom is won for the nine victims of Alabama justice."

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
July 11, 1937

BACK IN THE NEWS

The Scottsboro case is back in the news. It first popped into the headlines several years ago when a number of negroes were convicted of attacking two white women. But the Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union and several other organizations were attracted to the case in order to gain publicity, and as a result it has gone clear through the courts to the Supreme Court and back again.

It shows, if nothing else, that any case can be prolonged indefinitely if the defendants are supported by closely-knit organizations, even if they are in the minority.

Another Convicted In Decatur Court

DECATUR, Ala., July 21 (AP)—Imprisonment of 99 years was decreed today for Andy Wright by the tenth jury in six years to return a guilty verdict in the "Scottsboro case," on charges that nine Negroes committed a gang rape of two white women.

Shortly after the tribunal reported, Clarence Norris, convicted last week, was brought before the bar and sentenced to die September 24.

The defense filed notice of appeal, staying Norris' execution.

STATE WON'T ASK CHAIR FOR WRIGHT

Jury Picking Begun For Trial Of Third Negro In "Scottsboro" Attack Case

BY LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, Ala.—(AP)—The stage was set today for the opening of a third trial in the new series of "Scottsboro case" trials. A jury to try Andy Wright on a charge of participating in a mass rape of Mrs. Victoria Price was to be selected and taking of testimony started today.

Wright is the first of the nine defendants to go on trial without threat of a death sentence. After a conference yesterday, the state agreed not to ask the electric chair for Wright.

In two earlier trials of this latest series in the six-year-old court drama, Clarence Norris was sentenced to die and Heywood Patterson was given 75 years for the rape of Mrs. Price.

The trial of a fourth defendant, Charlie Weems, is set for Thursday and date for still others is to be announced by the court this week. A source close to the prosecution yesterday said "all these cases may be settled by next week."

Asst. Atty. Gen. Thomas Lawson has not said if the agreement reached in the Wright case yesterday would be applied to other cases. Samuel Leibowitz, of defense counsel, has declared his intention of appealing sentences on Patterson and Norris to the United States Supreme Court.

The federal tribunal twice has reversed death sentences in the case, once when it decided the defendants had not been given adequate defense and again when a defense contention of an unfair trial was upheld by the court because Negroes had been excluded from service on juries trying the Negroes.

This is Wright's first trial since April, 1931. The second high court reversal was in other convictions against Norris and Patterson. The Negroes are accused of attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates on a freight train in North Alabama. The women said they were returning to Huntsville after being unable to find work in Chattanooga.

Freeing of 4 Boys Victory for Negro People, Foster Says

Daily Worker 7-16-37

Fight Goes on Until Other 5 Are Freed, Declares Communist Party Leader—Release Demonstrates Power of Forces United in Scottsboro Defense

The freeing of the four Scottsboro boys explodes the entire brutal frame-up by Alabama's politicians and courts in this case, William Z. Foster, national chairman of the Communist Party, declared to the Daily Worker yesterday.

It is a victory for the Negro people and a demonstration of the power of those progressive forces which united around the Scottsboro defense, Foster emphasized. The freeing of the four boys, he added, must be the signal for a renewed fight for the freedom of the five remaining defendants, "victims of this legal lynching."

Foster's statement on the Scottsboro victory is in full as follows:

VICTORY FOR NEGRO PEOPLE

"The freeing of the four Scottsboro boys explodes completely the entire brutal frame-up in this case, attempted by the courts and politicians of Alabama.

"The defeat of these lynchers is a striking victory for the Negro people. It is a demonstration of the power of the progressive forces which have united in the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 East 19th Street, with Samuel Liebowitz as chief counsel.

"The release of the four boys is another blow at lynch law and at the frame-up system of the corrupt politicians and big industrialists. It gives encouragement to further united efforts for the release of Tom Mooney and other victims of this frame-up system.

"The Communist Party and the International Labor Defense can well be proud of the part they played in the fight for the Scottsboro boys. By entering the struggle against this frame-up at the very start, before other groups had interested themselves in the case, the Party and the I.L.D. saved these boys from the electric chair. That is to their everlasting credit."

FIGHT MUST GO ON

"The release of the four boys does not end the fight. Every progressive group must now rally for the release of the others. Every intelligent person will know that these five are not guilty—that they have been railroaded to death sentence and to jail merely to save the face of Alabama's corrupt courts and politicians.

"Now, more than ever, we are called upon to fight for the freedom of **ALL** the boys, **ALL** victims of this legal lynching.

"These young Negroes, through this brutal terror and persecution, showed themselves to be true heroes. Despite terrific pressure at the hands of the lynchers, not one of them betrayed the others. Through six and a half long years, they have stood solidly in their innocence, loyal to themselves and to their people.

"They serve as a real inspiration today to all the workers of this country, to stand up firmly against the terror of the employing interests and their tools, the courts.

"Those who are guilty of directing this atrocious frame-up cannot be allowed to escape. Among them are some of the biggest politicians and judges of Alabama. These men stand indicted today of the crassest and most brutal misuse of the so-called machinery of justice. They, who would have sent these boys to death in their degenerate fury against the Negro people, should be exposed and punished for their guilt.

"There can be no let-up in this fight while this remains undone. There can be no let-up while one of the Scottsboro boys remains in jail."

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 25, 1937

CHAMLEE ASSERTS CASES A DISGRACE

Former Defense Counsel Hails Release of Four Negroes.

Declares 'Scottsboro' Trials Greatest Miscarriage of Justice in Century.

"The Scottsboro cases comprised the greatest miscarriage of justic that has disgraced a great state in 100 years," former Attorney-General George W. Chamlee declared here yesterday when he learned of the action taken in the four remaining cases. Chamlee was associated in the defense of the Negroes in two of the trials.

Soon after the Negroes took their fatal ride through Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931, Gen. Chamlee was associated with the case. The attorney fought vigorously for his nine clients and assisted in taking the cases to the United States supreme court where the Alabama supreme court was reversed.

Bitter days followed Chamlee's association with the Scottsboro cases. He was harassed and once or twice drawn into street brawls, but the attorney kept fighting for his clients. Then the International Labor Defense came into the trial and Chamlee continued as a counsel in the cases. Last night the former Hamilton county attorney-general said the "International Labor Defense is due the credit for saving the lives of eight of these boys." Chamlee suggested that the other boys should be pardoned by the governor of Alabama and that the state should pay them for the six years they stayed in jail "as innocent men."

Chattanooga Figures in Case.

Chattanooga figuerd conspicuously in the Scottsboro case. The first general counsel for the Negro boys was a Chattanoogan—Chamlee. The late Steve Roddy also was retained as an attorney in the cases. Four of the Negroes were Chattanoogans. Two of them were released yesterday — Roy Wright and Eugene Williams. The other two, Andy Wright ad Heywood Patterson, are still under sentence.

Ada Wright, Chattanoogan and mother of Andy and Roy Wright, toured Europe to arouse sympathy and raise cash for her boys. Her trip abroad was sponsored by the International Labor Defense and according to Gen. Chamlee, was a success.

During the bitter days of the first legal skirmishes Gen. Chamlee was often denounced as a "red" and a "communist."

"The Scottsboro cases were the greatest miscarriages of justice that ever disgrace a great state in 100 years," Gen. Chamlee said. "The Price woman swore in Scottsboro that 14-year-old Eugene Williams was guilty, and also that Olen Montgomery was guilty, and today the attorney-general admits that both of them are not guilty. Roy Wright has been in jail six years and he was 14 years old and never was convicted, and the attorney-general admits that he was innocent.

"Even Ozie Powell, who tried to escape and attempted to kill or injure a sheriff, in an effort to escape, was admittedly innocent of the charges against him.

"The reputation of the Price woman was exceedingly bad in Huntsville, where she served a jail sentence.

"Atty.-Gen. Lawson has rendered the state of Alabama a real service in his action by dismissing four of these nine colored boys, and now Gov Graves ought to pardon all the other five and release them from prison.

"If these cases had been in Tennessee they would have been acquitted a long time ago.

"Arville Gilley, one of the state's chief witnesses down there came to Chattanooga, robbed two ladies here and was sent to our penitentiary in 1935 for stealing. He passed through under the name of Luther Hiney to conceal his identity.

"The state of Alabama ought to pay these innocent men for the time they have been illegally kept in prison.

Placed in Same Jail.

"When these colored boys were arrested, the officers arrested the two women and put them in the same jail that they held the colored boys in without any justification for that, but one of them, Ruby Bates, swore it was done to make her stand by the false statement that the Price woman had framed up.

"This was the first time in the history of the world, as far as I know, when a white woman ever volunteered to go to court to testify that a black man was innocent after having once accused him. Ruby Bates said these boys were all innocent.

"Scottsboro is a nice little town, but she got the hard end of this mess. The ending of it all will be welcomed by the good people of that little neighboring town of ours and let it be forgotten.

"To the International Labor Defense

HIS FIGHT SUCCESSFUL

Successful in freeing four of the nine Negroes in the famous "Scottsboro case," Samuel S. Leibowitz, aggressive criminal lawyer, last night started for New York. He is shown here as he rolled up his sleeves for action in behalf of his clients.

is due the credit for saving the lives of eight of these colored boys. It was that organization that put up the money to carry the appeals through the courts when the litigation first started.

"Prejudice in the community where they were tried was too strong to permit an unbiased, impartial jury to [illegible] them.

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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
June 28, 1937

Pink Is The Color!

LAST week we pointed out that The Nation, a weekly magazine published in New York and one of the country's foremost "liberal" journals, had joined hands with several members of the Alabama press in advocating an out-of-court settlement of the Scottsboro case — provided, of course, that such a settlement means the outright release of the negroes.

We have always maintained that The Nation was nothing more than the mouth-piece for the parlor pink crowd in America, and that the only thing liberal about it has been the criticism which, in behalf of the arty crowd to which it caters, it heaps upon those who might possess a little money, or those who hope through the dint of hard labor to possess a little money. In other words, The Nation holds up its hands in holy hórror when somebody hints that he is old-fashioned enough to believe in property rights.

Thumbing through this latest issue of The Nation—a journal which a few years ago inferred that the Scottsboro negroes were more intelligent and more civilized than the white people in North Alabama who attended their trials—we were intrigued by the advertisements, and so we set out upon a little survey of our own.

We found that the June 19 issue of The Nation carried 53 display advertisements and 23 classified advertisements.

Of the display ads—

2 were for book publishers, advertising books of a radical nature.

6 were for political and economic money-collecting agencies, and for left-wing mass meetings and conferences.

1 was for phonograph records—and

FORTY-FOUR were for lodges, camps, country clubs, hotels, lakeside cottages and the like!

In other words, The Nation, which directs its appeal to the proletariat, the Socialists and the Communists of the country, derives practically all of its advertising revenue from luxurious resorts high in the mountains and along the sea coasts!

It is The Nation's privilege to accept whatever advertising it sees fit, so long as these advertisements stand the test of decency and the United States mails, and we have no criticism of the fact that approximately 80 per cent of the display advertising is devoted to summer resorts.

We must observe, however, that even in a magazine allegedly designed for the proletariat, the advertisers want to get their money's worth, and the advertisers in The Nation know what they are doing. They know, in spite of the fierce editorial pronouncements of The Nation, that its readers consist for the most part of parlor pinks and college "liberals" who like to spend their summer's high in the mountains or down by the sea far from this madding world.

Of course, the steel worker can bend over the hot hearth, and the farmer can plod beneath a searing sun, but the champion of the proletariat must be intellectually and physically soothed so that he can ponder upon the problems of his brother toiler. The parlor pink may rant and rave when the members of the Supreme Court have a long summer vacation—taking their work with them, by the way—but it is just too, too terrible when the intelligentsia cannot be physically free for a few months. Even those magazines which cater to the rich have SOME hint of hard work in their advertising columns—but not The Nation! The clients of The Nation are too busy resting and thinking up new ways of stirring a revolution to indulge in a bit of toil for themselves.

We might close our little survey by pointing out that more than half of the classified ads in that issue of The Nation dealt with the same problem of how to pick a summer resort, while other classified ads concerned such things as a young gentleman ballet dancer who needs a job for the summer and a young lady who wishes to join a radical group for a tour of Mexico.

We mention these things not in an effort to discredit The Nation with those of this section who might read the magazine, but merely to point out that a rag of this type is the leading journalistic advocate in the East of the new Alabama movement to settle the Scottsboro case out of court, and of course The Nation can imagine no "decent" settlement except outright release.

From 1931 to 1937, The Nation has been packed with statements about the Scottsboro case which run all the way from mild prejudice to rank lies, and time after time this magazine has deliberately distorted the truth in an effort to show that Alabama has maliciously persecuted nine innocent negroes.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
June 23, 1937

In Southern Eyes

(The Charleston News & Courier)

The Nation, New York quotes, with implied approval, from The Montgomery Advertiser: "The Scottsboro negroes (The Nation always tenderly alludes to them as "boys") committed whatever crime they have committed . . against two women who by all accounts never before had put a high premium upon their virtue."

The Nation and, one regrets to say, most Northern newspapers, are incapable of entering into the Southern point of view of the crime of which the nine negroes were convicted.

That the women were bad or good has nothing to do with the case. They were white women. To emphasize that distinction will shock The Nation and the fellows of its cult, but emphasize it we do.

In the South are two races, the one white and the other black, and the Southern white people are and ought to be sensitive to the last degree when a white woman, however low, is violated by a black man.

There are eight million negroes in these Southern states, nearly all of them well behaved men and women, but the fact of their presence in great numbers imposes upon the Southern whites a duty of protecting their race of which the North is innocently ignorant.

The English and the Dutch people of the South African Union would understand.

This crime of which the black men stand convicted in Scottsboro is a capital crime by reason of the cruel situation in which the facts of history have placed us Southerners. It is not a capital crime in New York, and there its commission, where the racial element seldom aggravates it, is much commoner than in Southern states.

The punishment of the crime in the South, whether the perpetrator be black or white, should be as swift and severe (always by legal process), when the victim is a loose woman as when she is a good woman. These things we do not say without awareness of the inconsistencies of the South in racial sex-relations of which decent Southerners are ashamed, and which, however, we believe have greatly decreased and are steadily decreasing.

Charlotte, N. C., News
June 21, 1937

Still Going Strong

An old unfavorite melodrama will be revived in Alabama next month when the Scottsboro Boys go on trial again. The crime charged against them — rape — was committed six years ago, but has been about lost sight of in the welter of perjury, racial antipathy, professional liberalism, convictions, appeals, new trials and retrials. Only this week, the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the latest conviction of one of the boys, but promptly an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States was announced by defense counsel Leibowitz.

And in Wise, Virginia, Edith Maxwell, the "curfew girl" twice found guilty of having crowned her father with a "slipper" or other blunt implement, has received the cheering news that the State Supreme Court has agreed to review her second conviction. Edith is thus assured of at least a few more months of liberty.

We were about to say that if somebody could just arrange for Tom Mooney's case to be reopened, we would have three serial *causes celebres* going in full blast at the same time — when, lo and behold! the mail brought an announcement from the Tom Mooney Defense Committee that a Senate subcommittee has been appointed to hold hearings on a resolution calling upon the Governor of California to grant Tom an unconditional pardon.

Poor Sacco and Vanzetti! They will never know what they missed by having been executed and put out of the marathon a mere six years after their conviction.

Alabama Lynch-Law Grinds On

Observing the niceties of the law, Alabama justice is making a mockery of the decision that Negroes are not called for jury service.

The guiding maxim of the prosecution and Judge Callahan in the Scottsboro trial seems to be: Call few and let none serve.

Out of a venire of 100 three Negroes were summoned only to be sent home again without the slightest chance of serving on the jury to try Clarence Norris, one of the eight Scotttsboro boys, now being railroaded through another framed-up travesty of justice.

In such manner, the Alabama authorities have been "carrying out" the rights of Negroes under the U. S. Constitution. The formalities are preserved in pantomime, but the lynch-law machinery grinds mercilessly on.

An all-white jury has been carefully handpicked, after the three Negroes were paraded near the court room, a concession that the Nine Old Men of the U. S. Supreme Court are apt to wink at and accept.

Were it not for an aroused people protesting against the original intentions of a mass lynching of the eight Negro Scottsboro boys by the Alabama authorities the Alabama prosecution would not now even be resorting to this farcical procedure. The boys are alive, but they still face the gravest dangers, the craftiness and desperation of a thwarted lynch-craving Southern ruling clique.

Rumored talk of a "compromise" is scouted by the attorneys for the National Scottsboro Committee, which calls on all the savage persecution of the eight innocent who would fight for Negro rights and against Scottsboro boys to continue and intensify the campaign of protest and the work to save their lives and effect their liberty.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
July 23, 1937

Wisdom Gets a Break at Scottsboro

Wisdom wins a partial victory at Scottsboro, if not a complete triumph. Convicted of criminally attacking white women of questionable reputation while the women and the Negroes were riding an Alabama freight train as "hoboes," Andy Wright, facing his tenth trial, drew a prison term of 99 years.

Which is to say he drew a term of life imprisonment. That is a long time to serve for any kind of crime short of murder. But the sailent advantage to the prisoner is the preservation of his life. In years to come he may prove himself entitled to the reconsideration and the mercy of the state.

Alabama has received much unfavorable notices apropos the notorious Scottsboro case. In previous trials the state insisted upon the death verdict for the Negroes, a stand that was widely criticized because of the reputation of the women involved and the fact that they were engaged in "hoboing freights" when allegedly attacked by the defendants. Their character was held up by the defense as a reason why the jury should cast the shadow of doubt upon the whole story of attack.

However, convictions resulted in all the previous trials and the judgment of death imposed. The United States Supreme Court granted the defendants new trials on the ground that Negro jurors were not summoned or impaneled for the trial of the cases. When the present trials began the state decided not to ask for the death penalty. This was the essence of wisdom in the light of the circumstances, for not only would the outside world look askance at Alabama justice if these men were required to die upon the testimony of nymphs du pave, but the possibility remains that the United States Supreme Court would again raise some embarrassing points on the issue.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 26, 1937

End Of The "Scottsboro Case?"

More than six years ago nine Negroes were taken from a freight train and placed under arrest when the train pulled into Scottsboro, Alabama. They were riding in a box car with Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, two white girls who stated that they had been to Chattanooga looking for work and who charged that the negroes boarded the car along the route and assaulted them after compelling some white boys who had been riding with them to leave the car.

That was the beginning of the famous "Scottsboro Case," which since has been fought through the Alabama Courts and to the United States Supreme Court and back. All of the Negroes were young when arrested, two of them being only twelve and thirteen years old, respectively. Some of the older ones among them have been tried several times, found guilty and sentenced to death. The Supreme Court twice has ordered new trials for convicted defendants, once on the ground that Negroes were barred from jury service in Alabama.

The eleventh trial in connection with this case ended last Saturday and resulted in the conviction of Ozie Powell and Charlie Weems, two of the six defendants who were arraigned. The rape charge against Powell was erased but he was given twenty years in prison when he pleaded guilty to charges of assault with intent to kill an officer in an alleged attempt to escape last year. Weems was given seventy-five years on the charge of rape, making the fifth of the nine Negroes to be placed under sentence. Previously Clarence Norris had been sentenced to death, Heywood Patterson to seventy-five years, and Andy Wright to ninety-nine years. Patterson and perhaps Wright had been tried two or three times and given death sentences.

Four of the defendants tried last week were set free. These included the two who were classed as juveniles at the time the alleged crime was committed. The cases against these four—Olen Montgomery, Willie Robertson, Eugene Williams and Roy Wright—were dropped. The latter two were the juveniles, and the prosecution staff announced it was convinced that the former two were not guilty. The four freed Negroes were turned over to their attorney, Samuel Leibowitz of New York, and immediately left Decatur, where the trial was held. They were driven north toward Nashville, Tennessee by a fifth Negro, Mr. Leibowitz following.

A dispatch from Decatur quotes "a source usually reliable" as saying "This ends the Scottsboro Case." This source forecast that Clarence Norris's death sentence will be commuted to life imprisonment and that appeals in the other cases will be dropped. The public would welcome the end of that case, but whether justice has been done is another question. There has always been a question as to whether the Negroes attacked the two white girls in the box car. One of the girls repudiated her story after one or two of the Negroes had been convicted and testified in court that they had not been assaulted. A friend of the other girl stated in court last week that she had told him no assault had been committed.

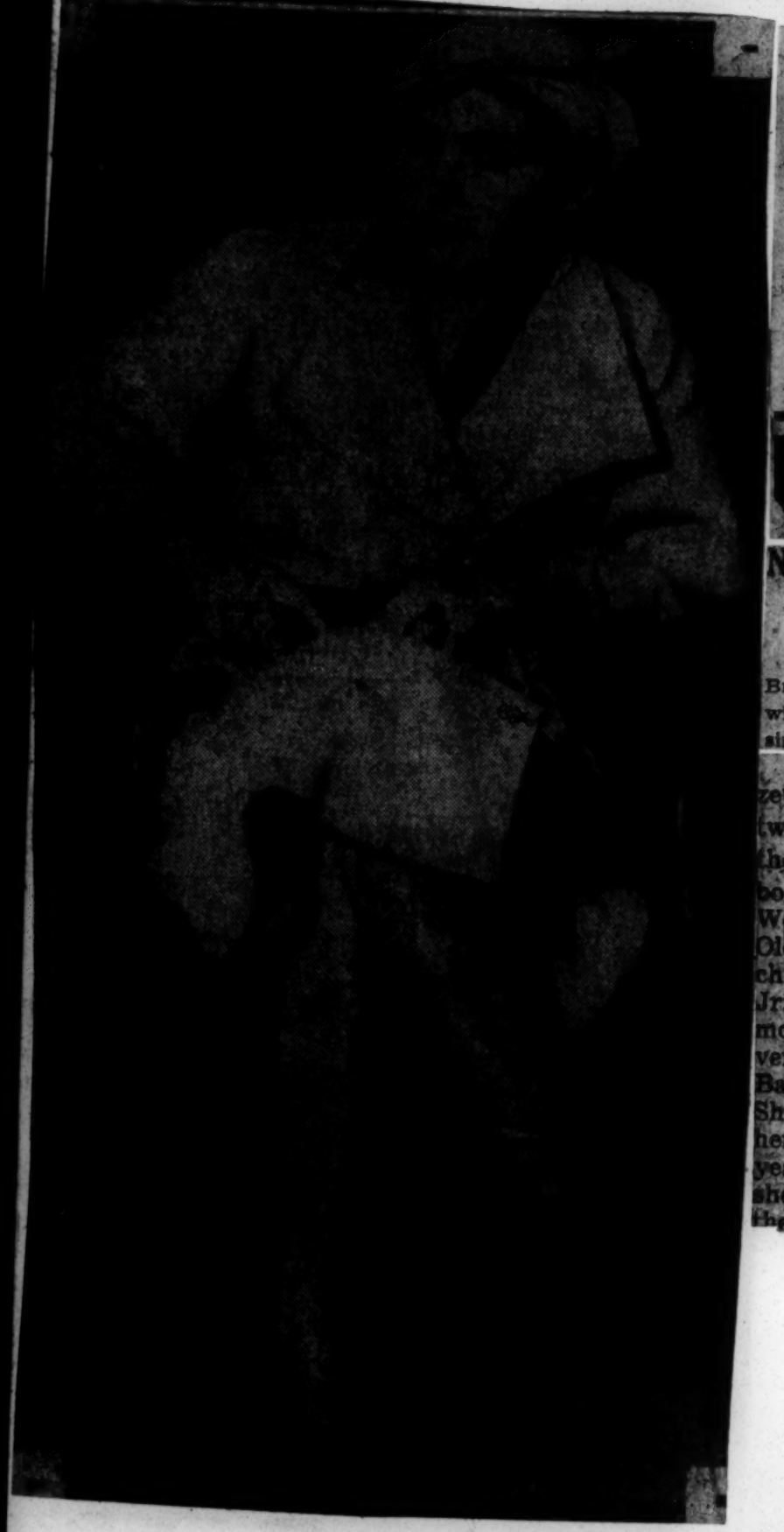
Possibly, after a time, the five Negroes now under sentence will be given their freedom. Their guilt of a crime for which they have spent six and a half years in the shadow of the electric chair, for which one still is in the shadow of the chair and the others have been sentenced to long prison terms, has never been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Indeed, there is serious doubt of their guilt. To many it will seem that if the Scottsboro Case is ended it has not ended to the credit of Alabama or of Alabama justice.

Alabama

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

5636

PRINCIPALS WHO HAVE FIGURED IN SIX-YEAR HISTORY OF CELEBRATED ALABAMA CASE



New Show Scheduled For Opening Aug. 31

NEW YORK, July 29—The New Broadway production "Vi- gia," will open August 31 with 40 colored singers.

HARLEM GREETS 4 FREED NEGROES

Thunderous Applause Given Leibowitz, 4 Youths

NEW YORK, July 26.—(AP)—What looked like most of Harlem all but raised the roof of Pennsylvania station today in hailing a thunderous welcome to four bewildered negro youths freed in the latest chapter of the Scottsboro mass rape case.

Several elbowed and half-mauled spectators were trampled under foot when hundreds of cheering, shoving negroes stormed heavy police lines to shout a lusty salutation to the dusky quartet and to their chief defense counsel, Samuel Leibowitz, as they arrived from the south.

The negro youths, freed at Decatur, Ala., Saturday at the conclusion of 11 trials that resulted in five of their companions receiving sentences ranging from 20 years to the death penalty in an alleged mass attack upon two white girls on a freight train in 1931, were goggle-eyed at the enthusiasm of the welcome.

Some jumped and others fidgeted nervously as flashlight bulbs blinked and popped while photographers took their pictures as they emerged from their coach in the dimly lighted train shed two stories under ground.

Taking rank with such "causes celebre" as that of Tom Mooney and Sacco-Vanzetti, the Scottsboro case, in which nine Negro boys were charged with attacks on two white women, has engaged the attention of the world for six years. Principals in the case as it dragged through the years are shown here. Upper left, the Scottsboro boys with their attorney, Samuel Leibowitz. The boys: Heywood Patterson, Charlie Weems, Clarence Norris, Andy Wright, Ocie Powell, Eugene Williams, Roy Wright, Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson. Upper right, left to right: Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel; Heywood Patterson, Attorney General Thomas E. Knight Jr., who was the chief prosecutor of the boys in all the early trials. He died two months ago. Judge Thomas E. Horton, who sacrificed his political life when he reversed the conviction in the second trial of Heywood Patterson. Bottom, left: Ruby Bates, one of the white girls the Scottsboro boys were charged with having attacked. She denied the boys were guilty. Center: Victoria Price, the other girl, who stuck to her story until the end. Right: Ocie Powell being treated in prison hospital last year after he had been shot by the sheriff. He was accused of stabbing a deputy sheriff. For this crime, to which he pleaded guilty, he was sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary.

Lynchings-1937
6
Legal Punishment for Rape

Alabama

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Date By Date History Of Scottsboro

Chropological Story Discloses Various Steps Between Arrest of Nine Boys and Freedom of Five.

Although the Scottsboro cases cannot be regarded as closed as long as four of the boys face penitentiary sentences totaling 280 years, and one a death sentence, an abrupt shift in future defense plans was caused Saturday when the State of Alabama withdrew charges against five of the boys, holding that the evidence against them was not conclusive.

Chief of Defense Counsel Samuel Leibowitz has given his pledge not to give up the fight until all the boys are freed. Most important steps in case follow:

1931

March 25—Nine Negroes arrested at Paint Rock, Ala., charged with attacking two white girls on a freight train.

March 31—Jackson County Grand jury indicts all on rape charge.

April 6—Clarence Norris and Charlie Weems convicted with death penalty at Scottsboro.

April 7—Heywood Patterson convicted, death penalty.

April 8—Andy Wright, Eugene Williams, Willie Roberson, Ozie Powell and Olen Montgomery, convicted with death penalty.

April 9—Jury disagrees in trial of Roy Wright. Judge A. E. Hawkins pronounces death sentences on eight.

1933

March 25—Alabama Supreme Court affirms sentence of all but Eugene Williams, whose death sentence was set aside on grounds that he was a juvenile.

November 8 — United States Supreme Court sets aside death sentence, holding Negroes were without benefit of adequate counsel.

1935

March 7—Judge Hawkins grants a change of venue from Jackson County (Scottsboro) to Morgan County (Decatur).

March 20—Defense seeks to set aside indictments and venire because no Negroes were on jury rolls.

April 3—Heywood Patterson goes on trial at Decatur.

April 5—Ruby Bates, one of the prosecuting witnesses, repudiates account of attacks, charging Victoria Price "framed" story.

April 9—Patterson convicted and sentenced to death.

June 22—At Athens, Ala., Judge James E. Houston sets aside Patterson sentence and orders new trial, holding evidence insufficient to warrant verdict.

Dec. 1—Patterson convicted with death penalty for third time, before Judge W. W. Callahan at Decatur.

Dec. 6—Clarence Norris convicted with death sentence.

June 28, 1934 — Death sentences confirmed by Alabama Supreme Court.

Sept. 29—Man arrested at Huntsville, Ala., charged with attempting to bribe Mrs. Price. The next day two New York attorneys arrested in Nashville, Tenn., on bribe attempt charges.

Oct. 3—Samuel Leibowitz, defense attorney, in New York statement, threatens to withdraw from case if "all Communists are not removed from defense."

Oct. 4—Alabama Supreme Court denies rehearing of appeals.

1935

April 1 — United States Supreme Court holds constitutional rights of defendants violated in exclusion of Negroes from jury service.

1936

Jan. 22—Heywood Patterson, convicted a fourth time, gets a seventy-five-year sentence. Ozie Powell shot after allegedly slashing throat of deputy sheriff in escape attempt. Deputy and Powell recovered.

1937

June 14—State Supreme Court confirms Patterson sentence.

July 13—Clarence Norris convicted, death sentence.

July 22—Andy Wright convicted and gets ninety-nine years.

July 24—Charlie Weems convicted and is sentenced to seventy-five years. Ozie Powell pleads guilty to assault with intent to murder and is sentenced to twenty years. Rape charges against Powell and the four remaining Negroes are dropped. Four freed.

SHORT TERMS ARE LIKELY IN ATTACK CASES

Birmingham Post

Reduced Prison Sentences For Scottsboro Negroes Are Predicted

Birmingham, Ala.

THAT WOULD END CASE

Precedent For Clemency Is Believed Set In Giving One 20 Years

By James C. Hutto

Unless future developments alter the picture, the internationally notorious Scottsboro case probably will end with reduced prison sentences for the five Negro defendants who remain in jail.

Immediately after the four other defendants were freed in Decatur Saturday, when the state nol-prossed the charges against them, a usually well-informed source declared that development virtually ended the "body of death" that for more than six years has stood as an ugly blotch on Alabama's legal history.

This source predicted executive clemency will be extended Clarence Norris, the only defendant now facing the death penalty, and that the defense will then drop appeals in his and the other cases.

Likelihood that all of the sentences eventually will be reduced by executive action was emphasized by the solution reached in the case of Ozie Powell, fifth defendant against whom rape charges were dropped Saturday.

Powell pleaded guilty then to assault with intent to murder for stabbing a deputy sheriff last year while being transferred from Decatur to Birmingham's County Jail, and was sentenced by Judge W. W. Callahan to 20 years in prison.

The prosecution staff issued a lengthy statement explaining that two of the Negroes freed—Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson—were released because the state believes they are not guilty, and the other two—Eugene Williams and Roy Wright—because they were juveniles at the time of the alleged attack on two white women with which all nine Negroes were charged.

In Powell's case, the state cited no mitigating circumstances in dropping the rape charge against him. It was merely announced that an agreement had been reached whereby Powell would pead guilty to the knife attack on Morgan County Deputy Sheriff Ed Blalock.

The momentus climax to the six-year-old case came suddenly but undramatically Saturday just after the 11th jury to sit in judgment of a Scottsboro defendant returned a verdict of guilty against Charlie Weems, and fixed his punishment at 75 years imprisonment.

Only a handful of spectators were in the Morgan County courtroom when the verdict was read.

Then, in a series of swift moves, Judge Callahan heard Powell's plea of guilty to attack and, on motion of the prosecution, nol prossed the rape charges against him and the four Negroes who subsequently were freed.

Thirty minutes later the courtroom was empty but for an aged Negro janitor who was sweeping the place out—a symbol, perhaps, that the court was rid of the Scottsboro case for all time.

The four Negroes who were freed were never brought into court. A few minutes after the charges against them were dropped they scampered, laughing and chirping like schoolboys starting vacation, out a side door of Morgan County's red brick jail.

Four Go To New York

"Ah ain't felt so happy since ah was two years old," half-blind Olen Montgomery told Chief Defense Counsel Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York.

With the four Negroes bundled into one automobile and Mr. Leibowitz and his associates in another, the party sped away—accompanied to the Tennessee Line by two state highway police in a third car.

The party arrived in New York last night and were greeted by a crowd of between 2000 and 3000 persons, United Press reported.

Meanwhile, all of the remaining defendants except Norris were in Kilby Prison today. Norris, whose death sentence was suspended last week by notice of appeal, remained in Jefferson County Jail.

Four In Kilby

Those in Kilby are Heywood Patterson, who was given a 75-year sentence in January, 1936; Andy Wright, sentenced to 99 years last week in Decatur; Weems, who drew 75 years Saturday, and Powell.

Only Norris, Weems and Andy Wright—brother of the freed Roy Wright—were tried at the term of court just ended at Decatur.

None of the four Negroes who were released had been tried since their original trials at Scottsboro shortly after the nine Negroes were taken off a freight train at Paint Rock, in Jackson County, and charged with assaulting Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, Huntsville cotton mill workers, who were returning from a hoboing trip to Chattanooga.

The speedy Scottsboro trials resulted in death stences for all of the Negroes but Roy Wright. The jury disagreed in his case and he later was adjudged a juvenile by Trial Judge A. E. Hawkins.

Long Battle Begins

Then began the long legal battle that rang around the world and eventually brought a sweeping change in Alabama's jury system.

The International Labor Defense, a Communist organization, took over the defense and appealed the case to the Alabama Supreme Court where the death verdicts were upheld in all but the case of Williams, who was adjudged a juvenile.

Appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court, the cases were reversed on the ground the defendants were not adequately defendd at the Scottsboro trials.

Later a change of venue was granted to Morgan County, and in 1933 Patterson, considered the "key" defendant by the state, had his first retrial before Judge James E. Horton. Another death verdict resulted, but Judge Horton set it aside and ordered a new trial.

Callahan Takes Over

Then Patterson and Norris were tried before Judge Callahan who, before Judge Horton was defeated for re-election in 1934, shared the Morgan County circuit bench with the latter.

Death verdicts were again returned in the Patterson and Norris trials before Judge Callahan, and the cases again were taken to the U. S. Supreme Court—this time on the ground Negroes weer systematically excluded from jury service in Alabama. The high court upheld the defense contention in a sweeping decision that resulted in the names of Negroes being placed in the jury boxes of virtually every county in the state.

Patterson was then tried before Judge Callahan—in January, 1936—and was given the 75-year sentence now against him. It was the first "break" in the long case. There were no further trials until two weeks ago, when there began the episode that is believed to be the opening paragraphs in the final chapter to "Scottsboro."

SCOTTSBORO CASE ENDS AS 4 GO FREE; 2 MORE GET PRISON

Negroes, Released Quietly, Leave Decatur Under Guard, Bound for New York

New York Times,

75-YEAR TERM FOR WEEMS

New York

Powell, Cleared on Woman's Charge, Admits a Stabbing —Leibowitz Is Elated

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., July 24.—Four Negro youths, who for six and one-half years have lived in the shadow of the electric chair, were set free here today in a dramatic finale of the famous Scottsboro case.

The State, in the person of Thomas S. Lawson, Assistant Attorney General, nolle prossed all the indictments against five of the nine Negroes accused of attacking Victoria Price and Ruby Bates on a freight train bound from Chattanooga to Memphis on March 25, 1931.

Four of the Negro youths, three of whom were convicted and sentenced to death in the original trials at Scottsboro which the Federal Supreme Court reversed, were set free immediately to start for New York under guard with Samuel Leibowitz, their attorney.

The fifth Negro saved from trial by the State's action was sentenced to imprisonment for twenty years by Judge W. W. Callahan after he had pleaded guilty to a charge of assault with intent to murder. It was he who, a year and a half ago, drew a knife and attacked Edgar Blalock, a Morgan County deputy who was taking him to Birmingham.

The dropping of the charge against five of the Negroes accused of the mass attack on Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates came immediately after a jury returned a guilty verdict against Charlie Weems and ordered him to imprisonment for seventy-five years.

One Death Sentence Imposed

It was the second seventy-five-year sentence to be handed up against the Negro defendants. Heywood Patterson, who according to the State was the ringleader of the alleged attack on the two women, received the other such sentence.

One of the Negroes, Clarence Norris, the first to face a jury in the series of trials just concluded, was convicted and sentenced to death in the electric chair. On the heels of that verdict, another jury, in whose hands the Alabama law places the power to determine punishment, sentenced Andy Wright to prison for ninety-nine years.

The four who were set free here this morning are Eugene Williams, Roy Wright, Andy's brother; Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson. A Jackson County jury at Scottsboro disagreed on Roy Wright's guilt when he was tried there with the death penalty ruled out. He was 13 years old then. Williams also was under 16 years of age at the time, but he was sentenced to death with the other eight at Scottsboro.

One Woman Charged a Frame-up

Montgomery was ill and Roberson was almost blind at the time the alleged crime was committed. Testimonoy at earlier trials had indicated that these two did not even participate in the often-recounted fight with white hoboes on the train, but Mrs. Price has been just as insistent that they took part in the attack on her and Ruby Bates, who, during Patterson's trial before Judge James E. Horton, said the whole case was a frame-up by Mrs. Price.

Both Roy Wright and Eugene Williams come from Chattanooga and were members of Patterson's the Pennsylvania Station about 4:30 P. M. tomorrow.

It was just 10:55 o'clock this morning when the jury in the Weems case knocked on the door of the court room, indicating its readiness to report. It had begun its deliberations at 2:28 P. M. yesterday and was locked up for the night at 8 o'clock, resuming at 8:30 o'clock this morning.

As soon as Weems, the defendant, could be brought from the jail, the jurors filed into court and handed up their verdict to John Green, the court clerk, who read it.

"We the jury find the defendant guilty as charged in the indictment and fix his punishment at seventy-five years in the penitentiary," the finding read.

Weems Charges Injustice

Thanking the jurors and dismissing them, Judge Callahan remarked that "this ends the business of the court for this week."

Weems was brought around before the bench. Before sentence was pronounced by Judge Callahan, who pointed out that he had "nothing to do with the jury's verdict," Weems said he had not had "a fair and impartial trial."

"I didn't get justice here," he declared.

Mr. Leibowitz moved for an arrest of judgment, charging that the Court had no jurisdiction. This was a technical move to protect the record for future appeal from the conviction.

Ozie Powell then was brought into court. Mr. Leibowitz talked briefly with him. Then Powell was marched before the bench to hear the indictment charging him with assaulting Deputy Blaock read by the court clerk. Judge Callahan explained that he could plead guilty or not as he chose.

"Don't plead guilty unless you are guilty," said Mr. Leibowitz.

"I'm guilty of cutting the Deputy," the Negro said.

In consideration of the fact that the State had consented to nolle prosse the attack indictment against Powell in the Victoria Price case, Melvin C. Hutson, the circuit solicitor of Morgan County, told the court that the prosecution would insist on the maximum penalty for Powell. Mr. Leibowitz pleaded with the judge to take into consideration the six and a half years that the Negro has been in jail awaiting trial, but Judge Callahan said:

"If it had not been that the State had dropped the other charge of rape against him I would have given him fifteen years. As it is, I will have to sentence him to twenty years in the penitentiary. The State insists upon it."

The oter four Negroes were not brought into court. Mr. Lawson stepped before the bench and, in a quiet voice, moved to nolle prosse all the indictments charging them with attacking the two white women.

Thus, in a tangle of inconsistencies, ended the famous Scottsboro case.

In Washington With GEORGE MORRIS

The Scottsboro Case

WASHINGTON, July 27.—The acclaim of milling thousands who greeted the "Scottsboro boys" on arrival in New York would be unfortunate in its consequences if the demonstration should be misinterpreted. Leaders among the colored race, ministers and others, should warn against accepting the isolated instance as typical. The reward of a negro for raping a white woman in the South is not always a free trip to New York in company with the distinguished Mr. Liebowitz and a welcome at Grand Central Station rivaling that of transoceanic fliers.

THE SOUTH may be entirely wrong in its revulsion against rape. Perhaps Northern newspapers and Northern people are correct in assuming what the South regards as a major crime is only a social error. But right or wrong, most of the crimes are perpetrated in the South, and so long as the South feels about the crime as it does it will probably handle the situation in its own peculiar way. A short cut to a solution would be for Northern advisers to the colored race to concentrate for a time on discouraging rape among negroes instead of attempting to discourage lynching among the whites.

IN THE CASE of most heinous crimes the country feels that the ends of justice have been obtained only if the guilty are convicted. In the "Scottsboro case" the attitude of some seemed to be that the only mistake the able Mr. Liebowitz made in his defense was, instead of fighting the case out on a plea of not guilty, he should have had his clients plead justification.

Papers in the North made much of the fact that the victims were "women tramps," that is, they were beating their way on a freight train from one town to another, and being low in the social scale were in no position to demand application of the law against their attackers. That is another instance of the difference between the Northern and Southern conception of race relations.

THERE SEEMS to be a feeling throughout the North that the dismissal of the charges against some of the "Scottsboro boys" was a triumph of something or other, and the only blot against the name of Alabama is that others were convicted. It was not a case of the triumph of justice in the legal sense. Apparently all were guilty of what the South considers a crime, and from the viewpoint of the South one might as well celebrate the defeat of justice in any other criminal prosecution. Lynching is as revolting to one section of the country as it is to another, but the South has decreed that rape is a crime punishable by death. The South has laws, written and unwritten, against it.

PUNISHMENT for the crime in the South is so inevitable, so barbaric and revolting, that the very ruthlessness and unrestrained fury with which punishment is administered has served as the greatest restraint against commission of the crime. The Scottsboro case is calculated to result in conclusions that are not conducive to the future of law and order.

One conviction after another was reversed by the higher courts, always on a technicality and never on the question of guilt or innocence of the accused. One conclusion might be that there is no recourse to be had in the courts. If the guilty are to escape as a result of Northern prejudice against Southern whites, when cases run the course of all the courts, there are some localities in which the feeling will be that it is better to handle such issues in their own way and without recourse to the courts.

THERE IS never any lack of money with which to defend a Southern negro charged with raping a white woman. The nature of the crime is all that is needed to bring the Liebowitzes hurrying to the defense of the accused.

That is not a wholesome attitude. It is provocative of race prejudice which does not actually exist in the South, unless stirred by outside influences. The Northern assumption is that the South punishes only negro rapists, when as a matter of fact no distinction is made between races or colors when it comes to applying punishment. If negroes are principally the victims of prosecution and lynching, it is because they are the principal offenders.

AT THIS TIME there is pending in Congress an anti-lynching bill, which has already passed the House. The Senate has the votes to pass it if the bill is reached this session. As amended by the Senate a group of strikers may lynch a person who insists upon working, a mob of gangsters may lynch a rival gangster, or any other citizen for that matter, and still be subject only to the state courts. But if a rapist is taken from an officer or removed from jail and lynched, the officer charged with the custody of the prisoner may be sent to prison and the county made liable for pecuniary damages to the family of the victim.

The proposed bill is an invitation to officers to be somewhere else when a mob approaches. The law affords no protection to the officer who fails to protect his prisoner, no matter how desperately he tries. Those who earnestly hope for an end to lynching find no encouragement in the Scottsboro case or in the proposed Federal anti-lynching law.

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LEIBOWITZ MAKES SCOTTSBORO PLEA

Release of All Accused Negroes Is Asked in Mass Meeting in New York

NEW YORK, July 29 (AP)—Samuel Leibowitz called upon Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael of Alabama tonight to use his influence to free "all the Scottsboro boys."

Introduced as the "uncrowned king of liberty," the lawyer who defended the nine Negroes in the case addressed a mass meeting called to celebrate the liberation of four of the defendants.

"We shall give you no rest until the innocent are free," Norman Thomas, oftimes candidates for president on the Socialist ticket, warned "the Alabama politicians, time servers, slaves to racial prejudice."

A promise to "continue to fight for the boys until the finish" was made by Ruby Yates, one-time prosecuting witness against them.

The four who were freed, Roy Wright, Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson and Eugene Williams, were given a long ovation. Montgomery's and Roberson's mothers stood with them.

Leibowitz Tells of Conference

Leibowitz described a conference which he had here early this year with the late Lieut.-Gov. Tom Knight of Alabama, who first prosecuted the Scottsboro defendants, and his successor as attorney general, Albert A. Carmichael.

They both agreed, he said, "that they would be satisfied with a plea of guilty by four of the boys to a charge of assault not involving the crime of rape, and that for the four who pleaded to assault the state would recommend a sentence of five years . . ."

But Judge William Washington Callahan of Decatur, said Leibowitz, "wouldn't budge from his determination to convict everyone of these boys on a charge of rape and demanded terms of years in the penitentiary that would be tantamount to life imprisonment."

Direct Appeal Made

The result, he declared, was that Clarence Norris was sentenced to death and Heywood Patterson, Charlie Weems and Andy Norris were "doomed to rot for what may be the rest of their natural lives."

Freeing of the four defendants now in New York was an admission that the state's case was weak, Leibowitz asserted.

Recalling the inscription on the Birmingham (Ala.) court house, "equal and even-handed justice to each regardless of race, creed or color," Leibowitz ended his address with a plea directly to the attorney general:

"Albert Carmichael, I call upon you to make those words live for the Scottsboro boys."

3 Scottsboro Negroes Put In Kilby Cell

Fourth in Birmingham Pending An Appeal To U. S. Court

Andy Wright, Charlie Weems and Ozie Powell, three of the four negro Scottsboro case defendants convicted during the recent trials at Decatur that were concluded with release Saturday of the four remaining defendants on withdrawal by the State of charges pending against them — were committed to Kilby Prison yesterday morning to begin serving their respective sentences, by Sheriff J. Street Sandlin, of Morgan County.

Clarence Norris, the fourth to be convicted and the only one to receive the death penalty, was transferred back to the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham, pending another appeal his attorney, Samuel S. Liebowitz, of New York, will take to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Long Sentences Given

Of the three committed to Kilby yesterday, Weems is under sentence of 75 years and Wright 99 years' imprisonment, for complicity in a mass attack on two white women on board a moving freight train, near Scottsboro, in March, 1931.

Powell, who pleaded guilty to a charge of assaulting with intent to murder Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock, of Morgan County, was sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary. Powell slashed the officer's throat with a knife, while being taken from Decatur to Birmingham with other defendants in the Scottsboro case, in January, 1936.

Patterson Already There

When the trio arrived yesterday morning, the quota of Scottsboro prisoners at Kilby was increased from one to four. Heywood Patterson, "star" defendant of them all, who has been four times convicted and three times condemned to death, was already there—in the prison hospital.

He was brought there last week to be treated for a bone infection in one of his legs. An operation which surgeons believe will correct the trouble, is soon to be performed. Patterson, under sentence of 75 years in the penitentiary, has a third appeal pending before the U. S. Supreme Court. It is not his first visit to Kilby. He spent one Winter in a death cell there.

WEEMS CASE GIVEN TO ALABAMA JURY

Another Scottsboro Trial Ends After Leibowitz Charges a Mockery of Justice

HITS COURT 'HYPOCRISY'

Prosecutor, in Reply, Accuses New Yorker of Jeopardizing Own Plea for Publicity

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., July 23.—A jury which heard Samuel Leibowitz of New York attack the State's case in the Scottsboro trials as a frame-up, and ridicule the proceedings before Judge W. W. Callahan as a mockery of justice, retired this afternoon to weigh the guilt or innocence of Charlie Weems, one of nine Negroes accused of attacking Victoria Price, a white woman.

The jury, drawn from a regular panel after a special venire of sixty-five was waived by the defense in consideration of a waiver of capital punishment by the State, was barred from ordering death for the Negro, who is being tried now for the first time since his original conviction at Scottsboro was set aside by the United States Supreme Court. Another jury condemned Clarence Norris to die after a trial last week.

The Weems case jurymen were ordered to their hotel for the night when they failed to reach a verdict after three and a half hours of deliberation.

Answers Leibowitz's Attack

Melvin C. Hutson, Morgan County solicitor, in summing up the State's case against Weems before it went to the jury, declared that Mr. Leibowitz had insulted not only the members of the jury but the citizenry of this county and declared that Mr. Leibowitz's talk was aimed not at the jury box but at the press row behind it.

Mr. Hutson accused the New York attorney of deliberately seeking a conviction for publicity purposes, and told the jurors that they could give Weems up to 1,000 years.

In his address, Mr. Leibowitz declared his belief that it was hopeless even to try to convince a white jury here that a Negro accused by a white woman might be innocent of the charge.

Says He Is Tired of Hypocrisy

"I'm sick and tired of this sanctimonious hypocrisy," he shouted. "It isn't Charlie Weems on trial in this case. It's a Jew lawyer and New York State put on trial here by the inflammatory remarks of Mr. Bailey."

H. G. Bailey, of Jackson County, who prosecuted the original trials at Scottsboro, in summing up for the State yesterday afternoon, dwelt at length on the fact that counsel in this case came from New York.

Mr. Leibowitz referred to the string of farmers called by the State to bolster up the testimony of Mrs. Price as "trained seals" and "performers in a flea circus." He accused Mr. Bailey flatly of suppressing evidence favorable to the defense, declaring that this was a further reason to suspect that the whole case against the Negroes was manufactured in Mrs. Price's head to save herself and her hobo companions from vagrancy arrests.

The assertion of lawyers for the State that Negroes fare the same as white men in the courts of Northern Alabama was so much "poppycock," said Mr. Leibowitz, calling the formalities of the trial a mere travesty of justice.

Since taking charge of the defense he had examined more than 1,000 prospective jurors from Morgan County without yet finding one who would admit that he harbored the least bit of prejudice against the Negroes or would treat them any differently that he would white defendants in a court of law, said Mr. Leibowitz.

Yet, he continued, outside the court room on the streets of Decatur white men had told him privately that a Negro did not have a chance and that his life was as worthless as a burned match stick.

Judge Callahan strode back and forth on the bench, while Mr. Leibowitz continued his accusations against Alabama courts and juries. Mr. Lawson left the courtroom, but Mr. Hutson, the local solicitor, busily took notes and bided his time to have the final word.

Plan to Influence Jury Charged

When that time came Mr. Hutson, in a booming voice, charged that for some reason best known to Mr. Leibowitz the defense lawyer was seeking deliberately to inflame the jury against his client to make an acquittal impossible.

Once, during Mr. Hutson's closing argument, he asked the jurors how they would have liked to have their own daughters or women folk upon the freight train with the Negroes. At this point, Mr. Liebowitz asked for a mistrial but Judge Callahan denied his motion.

When the oratory of the lawyers ended Judge Callahan recessed court for lunch and began charging the jury when court reconvened.

Judge Callahan charged, as he has done before, that where a white woman accused a Negro of rape the jury should regard that as presumptive evidence that there was no consent.

Mr. Leibowitz noted an exception to this part of the charge, holding that the question of consent never had been raised in this case or any other involving the nine Negroes.

Judge Callahan told the jurors that he should have used the word "may" instead of "should" in this part of his charge. Then he proceeded to read written charges requested by the defense. The jury retired at 2:28 P. M.

SILENT ON NORRIS

Governor Is Non-Committal on Commutation Report.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 27. (AP)—Governor Bibb Graves was non-committal today on reports Clarance Norris, a "Scottsboro case" defendant, would receive commutation of his death sentence.

Asked about reports from Decatur, Ala., that Norris' death sentence would be commuted under an "agreement" whereby four of the nine negro defendants were freed of mass rape charges Saturday, Governor Graves said:

"There is nothing on my desk regarding the Scottsboro case. I never cross a bridge until I get to it."

Four defendants were at Kilby prison.

Norris remained in Jefferson county jail at Birmingham, while four others, freed Saturday, were in New York.

COMPROMISE IS REACHED AFTER NEW CONVICTION

Third Negro Found Guilty At This Term Of Morgan Circuit Court; Jury Fixes His Punishment At 75 Years In Prison

FOUR OTHER DEFENDANTS GO FREE

Criminal Attack Count Against Fifth Lifted, But He Faces Trial In Knife Assault Made On Deputy Sheriff In 1936

BULLETIN

DECATUR, July 24.—(Special.)—Ozie Powell, although freed of the Scottsboro assault case, today pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder in the stabbing of a deputy sheriff and was sentenced to 20 years in prison in that case by Judge W. W. Callahan. The disposition of this case leaves only four of the original Scottsboro defendants to go free.

* * *

By James C. Hutto
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 24.—The State of Alabama today dropped criminal assault charges against the five remaining Scottsboro Negro defendants who have not been tried at the present term of court.

Announcement of the long-rumored "compromise" came today immediately after a jury returned a vedict of guilty against Charlie Weems and decreed his punishment at 75 years in prison.

The five Negroes whose cases were nol-prossed are Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams, Roy Wright and Ozie Powell. Powell, also under indictment for assault with intent to kill in the stabbing of a deputy last year, will be prosecuted on the assault charge, it was announced.

Score In The Case

The score in the notorious Scottsboro cases stood today, therefore, as follows:

Haywood Patterson, convicted and sentenced to 75 years.

Clarence Norris, convicted and sentenced to death.

Andy Wright, convicted and sentenced to 99 years.

Charlie Weems, convicted and sentenced to 75 years.

Norris, Wright and Weems were tried at the present term of court while Patterson was convicted at the last term.

The five remaining Negroes also were to have been tried at the current term before Judge W. W. Callahan, but the compromise agreed upon by both state and defense will obviate the necessity of such trials.

Under the agreement, it was noted that all of the freed Negroes have already served six years in jail while awaiting final disposition of the cases.

Trio Held Ringleaders

The state has considered Patterson, Norris, Wright and Weems, the four now under sentence, as ringleaders in the alleged attack on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates and reports of a compromise to free the other five Negroes have been circulated repeatedly.

Roberson, who is 21, was 15 years old at the time of the alleged attacks. Montgomery, 24, is in frail health and half blind. Roy Wright, brother of the defendant sentenced to 99 years, is only 21. Williams is 21 and Powell 22.

None of the five defendants whose cases were nol-prossed have been tried since their original conviction at Scottsboro in 1931. The others, the accused ringleaders, have been used as the trial horses in the long legal war.

Four of the Negroes will now go free after their six years in jail. Powell must face the penalty for the stabbing of Deputy Sheriff Ed Blalock in 1936.

SCOTTSBORO GROUP IS DUE HERE TODAY

Leibowitz and Four Freed Negroes Are Scheduled to Arrive at 9:25 A. M.

PLANE-TRIP PLAN DROPPED

Youths Released in Alabama After 6½ Years Go Sight-Seeing in Cincinnati

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, July 25.—The four Negro boys freed by Alabama in the Scottsboro case will arrive at Pennsylvania Station, New York, at 9:25 o'clock (Eastern daylight time) tomorrow aboard the Cincinnati Limited with their lawyer, Samuel Leibowitz, who after a four-year court battle, has been credited with saving all but one of nine Negro prisoners from death. The ninth Negro, sentenced to death a few days ago, may receive a commutation of this penalty, Mr. Leibowitz believes.

In all, five Negroes remain in jail, one to serve a twenty-year sentence for stabbing a deputy sheriff; two under seventy-five-year sentences and one condemned to a ninety-nine year imprisonment for allegedly attacking Ruby Bates and Victoria Price on a Southern Railway freight train six and a half years ago. The fifth is the Negro sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Mr. Leibowitz and his four clients arrived here at 7:05 o'clock this morning after an overnight train trip from Nashville, Tenn., which they reached by automobile from the Morgan County jail in Decatur, Ala., after a hasty departure under guard of State highway patrolmen. Efforts were made to continue the rest of the way to New York by plane, but finally Mr. Leibowitz decided to complete the journey by train.

Hits "Illogic" of Alabama

The New York attorney today criticized the "illogic" of the State of Alabama in releasing four of the Negroes while imprisoning four others on attack charges when all were accused by the same complaining witness. Mr. Leibowitz said that he could not understand by what reasoning the prosecution had decided to believe Mrs. Price in one instance and not in the other when she testified at eleven successive trials that all the defendants had attacked her and Ruby Bates.

Describing his charges as "problem children," Mr. Leibowitz charged that the State had held the four youths in prison unjustly for six and a half years awaiting trial for their lives, only to release them in the end with the statement that it believed two of them were innocent and that the others were too young at the time of the alleged crime to pay the full penalty for their act. He demanded that the State make restitution to them for their ruined adolescence.

"The State would indemnify a farmer by an act of the Legislature for damages he sustained if a State truck ran down and killed his mule," he said. "Here Alabama confesses that, for nearly seven years, it caged four innocent Negro boys without any evidence against them. Doesn't it seem only fair and wouldn't it be but a small gesture toward justice, if Alabama awarded these boys some measure of compensation for the injuries it has inflicted upon them?"

The four freed defendants, still overjoyed at their unexpected good fortune, spent the day here, resting, bathing and seeing the sights, escorted by a Decatur Negro who accompanied them north, and by self-appointed local welcoming committees of Negroes.

Charge Soap Was Denied Them

Jail officials at Decatur, the four said, had denied them soap or towels in the two weeks that they spent in the Morgan County jail while their fellow defendants were being tried before Judge W. W. Callahan.

The four, Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson, sat up all night in a day coach to get here but they didn't mind that. One said that all he wanted to was to "keep traveling away from Alabama," and the other three chorused their agreement.

Dresesd in the prison overalls in which they have been photographed many times, the young Negroes, who ranged in age from 13 to 17 years at the time of their arrest, attracted crowds everywhere they went. At one Negro restaurant, where they stopped for food, a purse of $4.20 was collected for them in less than ten minutes.

What is to be done with the four Negroes suddenly set free after spending their adolescence in jail, without even the correctional machinery of a reform school, is the immediate problem before Mr. Leibowitz, who hopes through the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to place them in vocational schools which may give them some opportunity for rehabilitation. He declared today that he would fight any effort to exploit them for political or commercial purposes.

Crowd Waits at Station

More than 1,000 Negroes gathered at Pennsylvania Station yesterday hoping to welcome the four freed defendants in the Scottsboro case. They were disappointed when it was announced that Mr. Leibowitz and his party would not arrive until today, but most of them indicated their intention to return this morning.

The confusion came about through a series of telegrams from Mr. Leibowitz to clergymen and civic leaders in Harlem, requesting them to serve as a reception committee for the four Negroes.

Mr. Leibowitz wired his wife at about 11 A. M. yesterday saying he would arrive on the Cincinnati Limited tomorrow, but apparently was unable to notify the Negroes of the change until the clergymen had announced the earlier time to their congregations yesterday morning.

There was little evidence of a radical element in the welcoming throng, the crowd for the most part resembling a church group in its Sunday best. One church, the St. James Presbyterian of 409 West 141st Street, was represented by a purple ba nner.

The Negroes milled around the incoming-train board so enthusiastically that at about 3 o'clock the trainma n on duty had to, call through his megaphone:

"A little quiet, please, a little quiet. Y'can't hear the telephone here."

Shortly before the 5:05 train, on which the party was expected, was due, a spokesman summoned the crowd to the upper level of the station, promising an announcement. There the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, minister of the Holy Trinity Baptist Church of Brooklyn, started to speak, but his voice was drowned out by the sputter behind him of a loudspeaker hooked up from another part of the terminal. When he realized he was not to be heard, however, Mr. Harten said quickly: "They won't be in. They're coming at 9 in the morning."

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Imprisoned Scottsboro Boy's Mother Hails Victory for 4 Who Were Freed

'As Long as There's Breath in I.L.D. and C. P. They'll Never Die,' She Says

In a warm, moving letter received here yesterday, Mrs. Janie Patterson, mother of Haywood, Scottsboro boy imprisoned under a 75-year sentence, stated that "as long as there is breath in the I. L. D. and the Communist Party" the five Scottsboro boys still in Alabama's jails "will never die."

The letter was addressed to Anna Damon, national secretary of the International Labor Defense, 80 E. 11 st., one of the organizations comprising the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 E. 19th St. Mrs. Patterson wrote from Cincinnati, Ohio, where she is living following the death of her husband, Claude, early this year. She formerly lived in Chattanooga, Tenn.

SURE 5 WILL BE FREED

Feeling that the release of four of the Scottsboro boys would aid the campaign to free the remaining

MRS. JANIE PATTERSON
boys, Mrs. Patterson sent her "best wishes" to the Scottsboro Defense Committee and to Defense Counsel Samuel Leibowitz.

"I hope every one is as happy as we are just now. I am happy for I know just as sure as the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, the other five boys will be set free," the letter went on.

The boys still in Alabama's prisons are: Charlie Weems, under a 75-year sentence; Andy Wright, sentenced to 99 years; Clarence Norris, sentenced to die, and Ozie Powell, sentenced to 20 years on a charge of assaulting an Alabama Deputy Sheriff. All were tried and sentenced at the Decatur, Ala. Court during the last two weeks.

Patterson, also imprisoned, received a 75-year sentence at a trial in January, 1936. Appeals in the cases are being pressed by the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

MOTHER'S LETTER

Mrs. Patterson's letter in full follows:

"We have read of the great victory which has been partially won. Hooray for the I. L. D. and the great lawyer Mr. Leibowitz. Hooray for the freedom of the four boys! I hope every one is just as happy as we are just now. I am happy for I know that just as sure as the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, the other five boys will be set free.

"For as long as there is breath in the I. L. D. and the Communist Party, they will never die. I wish I was there to congratulate the great victory which has been won. I am sure the four mothers are in great happiness. I certainly feel fine over the freedom of the boys and can hardly express my wishes to you and the other comrades.

THANK ALL WHO HELPED

"All my children send their best wishes to the Scottsboro Defense Committee, Mr. Leibowitz and all who have helped us in the Scottsboro cases."

There are four other "Scottsboro mothers" all of whom are known throughout the world. They are: Mrs. Mamie Williams, Chattanooga, Tenn., mother of Eugene, one of the freed boys; Mrs. Viola Montgomery, Atlanta, Ga., mother of Olen, another of the freed boys; Mrs. Ada Wright, Chattanooga, Tenn., mother of Andy and Roy, also freed; Mrs. Josephine Powell, Atlanta, Ga., mother of Ozie and Mrs. Ida Norris, mother of Clarence.

The parents of Weems and Roberson, who was also released, are dead.

SCOTTSBORO MESS GOES ON

One of the nine boys Heyward Patterson was convicted last year for the third time and sentenced to 75 years. Last week Clarence Norris was for the third time tried and convicted, but received a death sentence. This week Andy Wright was tried but the State did not demand the death penalty for him, giving some weak reasons for its leniency. What inconsistency. If these boys were guilty of the charges made and sworn to by the woman of the case, then why one, so far, gets 75 years, another death and the third a term in the work house? Maybe, by the time the 9th boy is reached an acquittal may happen. But why talk about consistency in this Alabama mess? About the only thing that can bear that tag is the grim determination of that State to show to the world that it doesn't give a hoot for its opinion, nor does it agree with its idea of justice.

Outstanding Negro And White Leaders On Speakers' List

Boys Go Sightseeing Around New York After Rest—All Will Appear at Meeting—Lehman, Wagner, Van Nuys Invited

A group of distinguished civic and progressive leaders will address the huge "victory celebration" in behalf of the four freed Scottsboro boys at the Hippodrome tomorrow, it was announced yesterday. The meeting will begin at 8:30 P.M. The announcement was made by the Scottsboro Defense Committee, 112 E. 19th St., under whose auspices the meeting will be held. Expecting an overflow crowd Morris Shapiro, secretary of the Committee, said that the doors of the spacious hall would be open at 7 P.M. Admission is free.

Heading the list of speakers will be: Joseph R. Brodsky, head of the I.L.D. legal staff; Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief Scottsboro defense attorney; Roy Wilkins, prominent Negro member of the Scottsboro Committee; and Roger Baldwin, of the American Civil Liberties Union and acting chairman of the committee.

BOYS GO SIGHTSEEING

Meanwhile the four released Scottsboro boys—Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams and Roy Wright—yesterday were busy "seeing the town." They went on a sightseeing tour of downtown New York and the lower East Side. Last night they attended Radio City Music Hall. All are anxious "to visit Harlem."

The Negro youths will make their first public appearance at the Hippodrome meeting tomorrow night.

Other speakers at the meeting will be: Norman Thomas, Socialist leader and representative of the League for Industrial Democracy on the Scottsboro Committee; the Rev. Thomas S. Harten, Brooklyn Negro minister.

The Rev. Lorenzo King, pastor of St. Marks Church in Harlem; J. Finley Wilson, Negro head of the Elks organization, and Paul Brissenden, of the Columbia University faculty, and Dr. John Paul Jones, Brooklyn clergyman.

Shapiro stated that the "meeting tomorrow night will also rally support to the fight to free the other Scottsboro boys who are still imprisoned."

Gov. Herbert Lehman has been invited to address the meeting together with Supreme Court Justice Ferdinand Pecora and Charles Poletti, also Senators Wagner and Van Nuys, sponsors of the Wagner-Van Nuys federal anti-lynching bill.

Due Process of Law

DEBATE upon fundamental issues involving the liberty, rights and privileges of all Americans, invariably provides opportunities to review the position of liberty [illegible] is affected by the law.

In the course of his able speech to the Senate on [illegible] 12, against the Bill to reorganize the judicial branch of the Government, Senator Josiah W. Bailey (D., N. C.) made these pertinent observations:

"Probably there may be people in the South who will not quite like the case I am about to mention, but I like it—that of the Negro boy tried down in Scottsboro, tried for the most offensive crime known to our people, without a friend on earth, and with

much of evidence to convict him.

"The mighty power of a State tried him, and sentenced that his life be taken; but that humble Negro boy, with only the Constitution of the United States to defend him, finds his way to the Supreme Court, still independent, and the Supreme Court says to the great State of Alabama, 'You did not try him according to due process of law. You must try him again. You can not take his life.'

"He is living now, and being tried again. Perhaps he is guilty. I do not know. Thank God, innocent or guilty, there is due process of law in this country at this time! I am saying that the moment political power lays its hands upon the courts and the Constitution, due process of law will be in jeopardy."

Senator Bailey spoke of the feelings of minority groups who fled the tyranny and persecution of European regimes to find their liberty and rights justly protected here under the Constitution.

"The Negroes of the South," said he, "feel secure tonight because they know there is a Constitution and an independent Court. The religious peoples of this land feel secure tonight because they know there is a Constitution and an independent Court. The Jews in America feel secure tonight because they know there is a Constitution and an independent Court to guard it. Strike down the Court and you will see this civilization of ours shaken to its foundation."

While the Negroes of the South and other sections can never feel as secure as Senator Bailey presumes, until 'due process of law' becomes a reality for them, and the States cease converting the Constitution into a scrap of paper; it is heartening to note how certain New Deal legislation has changed the concepts of right and wrong, making the 'due process of law' the concern of all classes, and reminding the strong that the insecurity of the weak imperils the whole social and political structure.

Lawyers Swap Verbal Barbs In Assault Case

'Hypocrisy,' 'Perjury' Shouted By Counsel In Decatur Trial

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 23.—(AP)—Accusations of "hypocrisy" and "perjury," shouted by the "Scottsboro" defense, and a ringing State retort, echoed through the Morgan County courthouse today as another jury sifted the evidence in the famous mass attack case.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, the defense chief, flung the charges after he startled the court crowd by predicting conviction of Charlie Weems, the negro on trial.

Given the case at 2:28 p.m., the jury of 12 white men was unable to reach a verdict in three and a half hours deliberation, and Judge W. W. Callahan ordered the jurymen to their hotel until 9:30 a.m.

The impassioned address to the jury by the noted New York criminal lawyer, whirling about a denunciation of "sanctimonious hypocrisy" in the case, brought from a State solicitor a quick counter charge that "Leibowitz has apparently tried to prejudice his client's case—an amazing performance."

Clipping his words, Melvin Hutson, Decatur solicitor, said:

"If he (Leibowitz) hasn't premeditatedly tried to convict that negro for publicity purposes, then I don't know what I'm talking about."

Severest In Six Years

It was one of the severest exchanges of defense and State in the six-year-old history of the case, in which ten juries previously have returned as many guilt verdicts against various ones of the nine negroes charged with attacking two young white women aboard a rolling freight near Scottsboro, Ala.

Pleading before the 11th tribunal, Leibowitz said:

"I don't expect an acquittal. I don't expect a low term of years. If Melvin Hutson will ask for 50 years, the verdict will be 99 or something like that." He added:

"I'm sick and tired of the sanctimonious hypocrisy. Don't pay any attention when the solicitor gets up here and asks you to convict this negro because his attorneys comes from New York."

"It isn't Charlie Weems on trial in this case," he declared. "It's the State of New York, put on trial by Mr. Bailey (Solicitor H. G. Bailey, who argued for the State yesterday).

"That mob at Paint Rock (where the negroes were taken from the freight March 25, 1931) smelt something fishy. That's the reason these negroes weren't lynched when they were taken off that train."

Hudson Charges "Headline Hunting"

Hudson, taking up the State's case, declared:

"It's headlines in the newspapers that have caused all this trouble down here. It's not the purpose of this court to play for publicity in the newspapers."

Leibowitz earlier had made a perjury charge against the testimony of Mrs. Victoria Price, one of the victims of the alleged mass attack and the State's key witness. His move to strike her testimony was denied by the court.

The State did not ask the death verdict for Weems. Hutson suggested "a term of years equivalent to life imprisonment," and said to the jury: "You can give him any term from 10 to 1,000 years."

Weems was the fourth of the nine negroes to go to trial since the United States Supreme Court the second time reversed the State courts in the case, thus nullifying death sentences. Clarence Norris again has been sentenced to death; Andy Wright given 99 years, and Heywood Patterson, 75 years.

Scottsboro Boy Given 99 Years

Judge Sentences Another To Die On Sept. 24; Leibowitz Appeals

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 21.—(AP)—Imprisonment of 99 years was decreed today for Andy Wright by the 10th jury in six years to return a guilt verdict in the "Scottsboro case," on charges that nine negroes committed a gang assault of two white women.

Shortly after the tribunal reported, Clarence Norris, convicted last week, was brought before the bar and sentenced to die September 24.

As Judge W. W. Callahan looked down on Norris, the negro said:

"The jury didn't find me guilty—they just thought they did. I was convicted of a crime I never thought of committing."

The defense filed notice of appeal, staying Norris's execution.

"Scottsboro" defendants twice have been saved from doom by the United States Supreme Court's overturning death sentences imposed by Alabama courts. Wright was among those snatched from the electric chair, having been sentenced to death at Scottsboro, Ala., in April, 1931.

The term imposed on Wright was longer than the State asked. Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Morgan County, in his summation, demanded the negro be given a term equivalent to life. He mentioned 50 to 75 years.

Leibowitz Offers Objections

Samuel S. Leibowitz, as the jury reported, moved to arrest the judgment, contending the Morgan Circuit Court was "without jurisdiction." He argued Wright was "deprived of his constitutional rights to a fair and impartial trial," because the court had denied a transfer of the case to the Federal District Court at Birmingham. Judge Callahan overruled him. Previously Leibowitz had filed exceptions to the charge of Judge Callahan to the jury, setting forth it "accented unduly" the State's evidence, and did not summarize evidence presented by the defense.

The jury which convicted Wright today was the first ever to receive the "Scottsboro" case without a State demand for death of the negro on trial. It took the case at 10:35 a.m. and reported two and a half hours later.

Wright Unmoved at Verdict

Wright sat, unmoved, as the jury reported. From the witness stand he had denied guilt.

Conviction was asked by H. G. Bailey, solicitor of the Scottsboro circuit, under a law "designed to protect the virtue of our women, regardless of their reputation or station."

In addressing the jury, Leibowitz pleaded for acquittal of Wright, "because Victoria Price was not raped."

Mrs. Price, from the witness stand yesterday looked at Wright and in answer to a question by a State attorney said: "Yes, he was one."

The State charges the nine negroes criminally molested Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates March 25, 1931, aboard a freight train after the two young women caught a ride to return to their Huntsville, Ala., homes from Chattanooga where they went to seek work.

The negroes first were tried at Scottsboro. The death sentences decreed there were reversed by the United States Supreme Court, which held the defendants were without adequate counsel. Agencies outside Alabama hired new legal talent for the defense.

But again, at trials in Decatur, death verdicts were returned. This time, the Supreme Court held that negroes were excluded from juries handling the case.

In the new series of trials, since the last death sentence was nullified, Norris has been sentenced again to death, Weems given 99 years and Heywood Patterson sentenced to 75 years. Patterson was tried last in January, 1936.

Leibowitz already has expressed a determination to take the case to the Supreme Court "20 times if necessary."

Another Trial Set

The trial of another "Scottsboro" defendant was set for 8:30 a.m. tomorrow. He is Charlie Weems.

Members of the prosecution declined to say whether capital punishment will be waived in his or any of the remaining cases. At the time the State announced the death demand would be waived in Wright's case, Alabama Assistant Attorney General Thomas Lawson said the negro was "one of the younger negroes" and "not regarded by the State as a leader of the attacks."

It was expected that the remaining defendants preparatory to their successive trials, will be arraigned tomorrow. They are Ozie Powell, Olen Montgomery, Eugene Williams, Willie Roberson and Roy Wright.

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SCOTTSBORO COMPROMISE TALK

Of all the disreputable schemes that have been suggested as a means of getting rid of the Scottsboro trials, the one which has come to notice in the last few days is the most reprehensible.

According to newspaper reports, a proposition has been made to have the nine boys confess that they did assault the "Scottsboro girls" but the extent of their crime was "felonious" and not "criminal." This done, so the story goes, arrangements can be made to find the boys guilty as confessed and some short prison sentences will be assessed. As a further act of grace, these short prison sentences will be made retroactive to 1931.

The very fact that the Alabama prosecution will sit down and discuss such a compromise is as strong a proof of the innocence of the boys as was the forceful repudiation of her charge of rape as was made by Ruby Bates.

What you are witnessing in this weird compromise proposal is a frantic effort upon the part of the Alabama prosecution to have the record of this case show that the Scottsboro boys were guilty of some sort of crime. The prosecution should not be allowed to get away with such a piece of skullduggery.

Of course it is hard, after so many weary years of diabolical campaigning to send these boys to the electric chair, to find that it can not be done because public sentiment of America's righteous majority and the Supreme Court of the United States stand athwart the path of the Scottsboro prosecution. But the decent thing for the prosecution to do is to confess its guilt and assume the virtue of good sportsmanship.

Abler prosecutors than those in Alabama, in the past have moved to dismiss cases when they found themselves unable to meet the requirement of proving a defendant guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." Alabama officials can do the same in this celebrated case, and in this way rescue something from the wreck of their official reputations. Nobody who is intelligent enough to follow the evidence in the Scottsboro cases and who is unbiased enough to weigh that evidence without thinking of the races of the parties involved can reach any other conclusion than that these boys are absolutely innocent of the crime with which they have been charged and shamefully persecuted over a period of six long years. It is nothing less than futile and foolhardy for the Alabama officials to keep holding out for a conviction or a "confession" of guilt. Any decent respect for the fact that their madness already has strengthened the communist forces throughout the world, brought shame to the American people in general and embarrassment to the Christian church, will cause the prosecution to drop the Scottsboro cases and let the outraged boys go free.

The Scottsboro Cases

More than a year ago The Commercial Appeal, in a spirit of utter frankness, urged that the state of Alabama owed it to the south to make some reasonable and speedy disposition of the Scottsboro cases.

The Supreme Court of the United States had just reversed the judgment of the Alabama courts in a far-reaching opinion which went far towards threatening the common practice of excluding negroes from southern juries. Competent lawyers saw in the opinion a broad intimation that the severe punishment the state of Alabama sought would not be permitted to stand. This being true, the assumption was proper that regardless of the merits of the cases, further efforts to push them would only serve to bait the higher courts and at the same time keep alive an agitation that was detrimental to the best interests of the people of Alabama and of the south.

It is refreshing to observe that the Birmingham News has joined with the Montgomery Advertiser in advocating that these cases be compromised. The defendants have been in jail for six years, the case has been to the Supreme Court of the United States twice, and only one of the six is under any sort of sentence now. Recalling that it has sided with the state and the prosecution, the Advertiser admits that "Scottsboro has injured Alabama incalculably." It adds, "let us throw away this body of death that has encumbered us all so long."

The News is even more emphatic. Pointing out that Scottsboro has been an Old Man of the Sea, the News calls upon the state to move for a decent, dignified compromise, concluding that if state officials can find their way to bring about a compromise, "they will have done a fine day's work for the people of the state."

It is to be hoped that this counsel will prevail. Not only would it be a relief to the people of Alabama, but it would be a good thing for the south as a whole.

Tragic Story of Scottsboro

Jackson county, Alabama, has been in the limelight because its officers arrested six years ago some hoboing Negroes accused of raping some hoboing white women.

Scottsboro is in Jackson county, and the case has been advertised all over the civilized world as the "Scottsboro case." Because the arrested men were hobo Negroes, Communist lawyers and agitators have sought to make political capital out of it. Alabama has had a great deal of expense, notoriety, and trouble, because of the ambition of the Communists. One of the Negroes was found guilty in Alabama and the Supreme Court of the United States declared the verdict of guilty could not stand because Negroes had not served, or were not serving, on the state's trial juries.

The Montgomery Advertiser immediately asked if the Supreme Court's finding could hold, inasmuch as no Negro presided on the Supreme Court bench at the time the case was considered. Now the Advertiser urges the state of Alabama to ease out of its trouble. The paper is tired of the long nightmare. The Negroes have been in prison six years, and the Communist ballyhoo squad have gotten about all the good they can hope to get out of the case; the state jury system has been liberalized so that in future Negroes who are fit to serve as jurors will be allowed to serve along with white people under the same qualifications, and the Advertiser thinks the state authorities should at this stage compromise the matter.

Jackson county happened to be the place where the arrests occurred. The prisoners now in jail were riding through on a freight train, stealing a ride. The white women themselves were stealing a ride, and were supposed to have been rather careless with their reputation. The more the Communists tore their hair and raved about the downtrodden hobos the more pugnacious became the state's officers.

The Advertiser, representing a high type of journalism in the South, believes it is time to get rid of the "body of death," and to make some compromise that will bring about a settlement.

Of course this will mean some concession to the intermeddlers, but the editor thinks no harm can come from that, in view of the miserable circumstances in the case.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
June 15, 1937

ALABAMA WEARY OF SCOTTSBORO

The Montgomery Advertiser declares editorially that it is sick and tired of the Scottsboro case; and that just about makes it unanimous. Our Montgomery contemporary was for several years so bitterly resentful of outside activities in the Scottsboro affair that it lost its usual poise. We did not much blame it for doing so.

Alabama felt as did The Advertiser that the self-constituted champions of the Scottsboro defendants were not so much concerned about securing justice for them as about making political capital for other purposes. There was a great deal to support this view; and nothing is truer in the history of the South than that pressure from without always breeds resistance from within. The resistance is sometimes blind, not infrequently hurtful to those who exert it.

What has disturbed some of us throughout in this Scottsboro business, however, has been the feeling that no case warranting either the death penalty or life imprisonment had been made out against the defendants. The Advertiser, which vigorously supported the prosecution in the heat of the battle, now confesses that the circumstances of the crime with which the Scottsboro negroes were charged were "extraordinary" and that "there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail."

How Alabama can now move, as The Advertiser urges, for "a decent, dignified compromise" in the Scottsboro cases we do not know. The heat engendered by the activities of outsiders and by outside criticism seems to have died down in Alabama but the feeling persists that whatever is done now must be reconcilable with what the state has done heretofore. The fact, however, that a newspaper of the standing of our Montgomery contemporary wants those in authority to "strike out for an honorable, fair and just settlement of these messy cases" is in itself genuine progress.

"Scottsboro" has become, as The Advertiser says, a "body of death" for all concerned. It should be shaken off. The Advertiser, in having the courge boldly to reverse its own position, has in this instance set a good example for others.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
June 18, 1937

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Scottsboro is in Jackson county, and the case has been advertised all over the civilized world as the "Scottsboro case." Because the arrested men were hobo Negroes, Communist lawyers and agitators have sought to make political capital out of it. Alabama has had a great deal of expense, notoriety, and trouble, because of the ambition of the Communists. One of the Negroes was found guilty in Alabama and the Supreme Court of the United States declared the verdict of guilty could not stand because Negroes had not served, or were not serving, on the state's trial juries.

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Piedmont, Ala., Journal
June 18, 1937

A Good Suggestion

After six years' legal bickering and more or less futile effort and embarrassment to the State and the whole South for that matter, the so called Scotsboro case is no nearer solved than when the case was started. And now comes a suggestion for the only sensible solution, as it appears, to the whole disgusting muddle, namely, "a decent compromise" by the courts, as suggested by The Montgomery Advertiser.

The whole mess was a collossal mistake it appears to start with, for there was almost a complete absence of decent evidence sufficient to convict, with the white hobo girls contradicting their sworn testimony. To begin with who can deny that a whole lot of political motivation was mixed up with what any sensible person could see would turn out to be one of the nastiest racial and political controversies that could possibly be evolved.

It would be a good day's work if some way could consistently be evolved to rid Alabama of this stench in the nostrils of the state, the South and the nation.

"Drive Taxis—Dig Ditches?" Promoter Of Scottsboro Boys Hits Back At Public Critics

"We Intend To Make Some Money For Them, To Make It Properly And Honestly", He Says

NEW YORK, August—In answer to rumors of the "exploitation" of the Scottsboro Boys, Ben Bart, president of the Paramount Orchestra Bureau snapped, "What more honorable or expeditious career would the Negro press and public have the boys engage in? Would they rather have the boys drive taxis or dig ditches? Nobody has even offered them a ditch to dig in."

"We are specialists in the business of making money for people and procuring for them the price they are worth," stated Bart, head of the organization which handles the personal-appearance tour of the Scottsboro Boys. "We are not going to pretend that we are doing the thing out of great love for the boys. It is our business—booking engagements. But on the other hand, we will not allow the boys to be mistreated insofar as our jurisdiction goes."

"We intend to make money for them, to make it properly and honestly," continued Bart. "And every nickel these boys earn under our management has been and will be turned over to them. We have receipts to show where every penny that these boys have earned has gone."

"Real exploitation," concluded Bart, "is bringing out the best there is. We are exploiting the Scottsboro Boys, it is true. But we are exploiting them for their own benefit. Any statement to the contrary is a damnable, vicious [illegible]"

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Court Conduct Gets Leibowitz Stiff Warning

Perjury Charge Hurled At Mrs. Price In Assault Trial

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 22.—(AP)—Perjury charges were hurled by the "Scottsboro" defense today at the testimony of Mrs. Victoria Price, accuser of the negro defendants, and a witness testified the young white woman once told him she was not assaulted.

The latest surprise came during the trial of Charlie Weems, one of nine negroes accused of a mass assault of Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates.

After Samuel Leibowitz, defense chief, had motioned for exclusion of testimony by Mrs. Price, the star State witness, on the ground her statements were "perjured," he placed Lester Carter on the stand.

Carter said he was a hobo on the freight train aboard which the State contends Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates were assaulted by a gang of negroes on March 25, 1931, near Scottsboro, Ala.

"There was no rape," Carter said Mrs. Price told him in Scottsboro jail after the train was stopped by a posse at Paint Rock, Ala. Mrs. Price asked him to support her attack story to prevent "trouble over riding a train," Carter testified.

Only closing appeals to the jury remained when court adjourned until tomorrow. Leibowitz' offer to make his summation in five minutes if Solicitor Melvin Hutson would restrict his to ten minutes was rejected by the court when Hutson declined.

Leibowitz' motion for exclusion of Mrs. Price's testimony came at the end of a two-hour furious cross examination.

Judge Warns Leibowitz

"I don't see any occasion for a grand stand play like that," interrupted trial Judge W. W. Callahan and he overruled the motion midway in the noted lawyer's plea.

A court room already tense because Callahan had warned Leibowitz to change his manner or "get ready for trouble," heard the stocky little lawyer rip into Mrs. Price's statements.

"The evidence is so rampant it (Victoria's testimony) is filled with perjury," said Leibowitz as the woman descended from the stand where she identified Charlie Weems, now on trial, as one of her attackers aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931.

Mrs. Price has been "given money for clothes" by State counsel, Leibowitz stated during his two-hour cross examination. The New York attorney sought to discredit Mrs. Price's story of a gang attack by nine negroes.

Judge W. W. Callahan, noted for his rigid court discipline, faced the noted lawyer.

"It's not too late for me to enforce orders of this court," he said in a stern voice, "and I am warning you now your mannerism is going to lead to trouble and you might as well get ready for it."

Electric Chair Waived

Earlier, the State removed the shadow of the electric chair from Weems, by waiving capital punishment. A precedent of death demands for all the nine defendants was broken by the State last week, as capital punishment was waived in the case of Andy Wright.

Meanwhile, another "Scottsboro" defendant, Heywood Patterson, was moved from a Birmingham jail to the State's Kilby Prison Hospital at Montgomery. A Birmingham jail physician said he was suffering from a diseased leg bone. The condition, the doctor said, apparently was caused by an injury suffered before the negroes were taken from the freight train at Paint Rock, Ala., March 25, 1931.

The jury that tried Weems today was the 11th to weigh "Scottsboro" evidence in six years. All the 10 previous tribunals returned guilty verdicts.

Notwithstanding, Leibowitz contends "Victoria Price was not raped." Ruby Bates, a complaining witness in the first trials, later repudiated her story. Mrs. Price, however, has maintained steadfastly that the negroes attacked her on the moving train after she and Ruby Bates had caught a ride home to Huntsville, Ala., from a job-seeking trip to Tennessee.

The 10th jury to sit in judgment of one of the negroes returned a guilty verdict yesterday against Andy Wright and prescribed 99 years imprisonment, although the State asked a sentence equivalent to life and mentioned 50 to 75 years.

Another death sentence was imposed on Clarence Norris, after his conviction last week.

The new series of trials opened after the United States Supreme Court last nullified electric chair verdicts in Alabama courts. Weems is the fourth to face judgment. Heywood Patterson, the first tried, was given 75 years upon conviction in January, 1936.

NORRIS FOUND GUILTY

DECATUR, Ala.—Changing its front for the first time in the six-year-old history of the Scottsboro cases, the state of Alabama waived the death penalty in the case of Andy Wright whose trial began Monday, July 19, before Judge W. W. Callahan.

For the tenth time, Mrs. Victoria Price, chief state's witness in the case, repeated to the jury Tuesday, July 20, her story of being attacked by the youths aboard the freight train.

She identified Wright as one of her attackers. Her oft-repeated testimony has been repudiated by her companion, Ruby Bates, who turned defense witness, and by the physician who examined the girls after the alleged attack. He said there was no evidence of attack.

Wright's trial began four days after his co-defendant, Clarence Norris, was found guilty and sentenced to death by an all-white Alabama jury in Judge Callahan's courtroom Thursday afternoon, July [illegible].

It was the ninth all-white jury to sit in judgement on the celebrated Scottsboro case, following the arrest of the nine boys in March, 1931, on a charge of "raping" two white girls who were hoboing on a freight train.

A few minutes after the jurors returned the death verdict against Norris they were laughing uproariously before they were out of earshot of the courtroom as they started toward the clerk's office to get their pay.

Norris Unemotional

Norris, who sat deadly calm and still during the short, rushed trial, showed the first sign of emotion when he leaned forward as soon as the words, "We find the defendant guilty and fix his punishment at death," were read by John H. Green, clerk of the court. Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, announced immediately that an appeal would be taken.

The case of Charlie Weems which, in accordance with the time-table schedule set by Judge Callahan, was to come up the same day that Norris' trial ended, July 15, was postponed for a week because of the illness of Clarence Watts, Huntsville, Ala., attorney aiding the defense.

Watts told the court that the long, hard hours fixed by Callahan and the sultry weather had been more than his constitution could stand.

Quick Verdict

The Norris jury began its "deliberations" at 11 a. m., taking an hour out for lunch, and reported its verdict at 2:48. It was the "quickest verdict since the original 'country fair trials" at Scottsboro, which the United States supreme court reversed because the defendants were not permitted adequate representation by counsel.

Judge Callahan charged the jury in a two-hour speech in which he labeled himself the best lawyer on the side of the prosecution. He closely paralleled the prejudiced charges he has delivered to the juries in the three other Scottsboro cases over which he has presided. He actually convicted Norris on every count, no matter on which part of the train he was or what he did. He covered all possibilities of excluding any testimony that would free the boy. In legal terminology he accused any of the boys of rape who took part in the fight with a group of white boys on the train.

Appeal Patterson Verdict

Wright is the first Scottsboro boy to undergo trial without having his life in jeopardy. He showed no emotion when the state agreed to drop the death plea.

Ninety miles away in Birmingham jail, another co-defendant, Heywood Patterson, the first youth to [illegible] a 75-year sentence which his lawyers are appealing.

Asked whether the death penalty also would be waived in the six Scottsboro cases yet to come up, attorneys for the state refused to say.

The selection of the jury to try Andy Wright proceeded Monday as carefully as if it were a capital case.

Leibowitz agreed to dismiss a special venire of 65 Morgan county citizens called to augment the regular panel of 35. Many of the 35 were out in court because of heavy thunderstorms [illegible] required 30 veniremen were absent and it was too late for the sheriff to get additional men, court was adjourned until Tuesday morning.

Powell to Institution

Judge Callahan expressed the desire to conduct the trial "within the letter of the law." He feared that "some one searching through this record might seize upon a technicality" and get another reversal in the court of appeals.

Melvin C. Hutson, circuit solicitor of the judicial district under whose jurisdiction the Scottsboro cases come, said he wants to speed up the cases to get them off the docket.

He said that it would be unnecessary to try Ozie Powell who, he said, would be entered in a state institution for the insane as soon as the defense submits affidavits of two reputable physicians.

Attorney Leibowitz also expressed the desire to speed up the cases.

"The sooner we wind up here, the sooner we can get to the supreme court if it is necessary to appeal from future verdicts."

Leibowitz said he plans to appeal the verdicts of the juries which sentenced Patterson to 75 years in prison and condemned Norris to the electric chair.

More Scottsboro Delays Looming

DECATUR, ALA., July 18—(AP)—Further postponement of the "Scottsboro" trials loomed today as Clarence Watts, defense attorney announced he could not attend court sessions tomorrow.

Andy Wright and Charlie Weems, two of the nine negroes accused of attacking Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train more than six years ago, are scheduled for trial this week.

Wright's case is set for tomorrow, and Weems's for Thursday. Weems's trial was postponed last Thursday when Watts became ill.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of the defense counsel, today worked over plans for an appeal from the death verdict rendered last week against Clarence Norris, first of the defendants tried in this series.

Judge W. W. Callahan has not sentenced Norris [illegible] will file the usual motions preliminary to an appeal after the trial judge fixed the execution date. Filing of the appeal will stay execution.

Two previous death sentences for Norris have been set aside by the United States Supreme Court.

Another possibility this week is an insanity hearing for Ozie Powell, the negro who slashed Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in an escape attempt in January, 1936.

Leibowitz contends Powell has become insane since his arrest March 25, 1931.

Wright and Weems, the two negroes who will be tried next, have not faced an Alabama jury since April, 1931, when they were given death sentences at Scottsboro. Those convictions were set aside by the United States Supreme Court.

OUR GIFT TO TENNESSEE

Yesterday Alabama sent four Scottsboro "boys" [illegible] by Sam Liebowitz, into Tennessee, with our prayers and blessings upon each and everyone of them. Since Tennessee will receive these Solons [illegible] The Cross hospitably, we think that Alabama ought to pass a resolution of thanks to by the Tennessee Legislature.

REPORTS of several weeks ago that a compromise settlement of the Scottsboro case had been agreed on, denied then by the Alabama state's attorney and further discredited last week by the death sentence pronounced upon Clarence Norris, are again revived with the news that only a prison sentence will be asked for Andy Wright, the second of the eight Negroes to face the court in the new series of trials, which the state devoutly hopes will finally dispose of this costly and notorious affair. It is apparent that Alabama is sick of the case and is ready to get rid of it at almost any price, although Norris' sentence indicates that it is not willing to lose face entirely. The trial of Norris marks the first activity in the case since Patterson was condemned to life imprisonment more than a year ago. The proceedings in the Decatur courtroom were for the most part unexciting, like a play given for the tenth time before the same audience. Victoria Price stuck to her old story and, except that Ruby Bates did not appear, the defense presented the same evidence to discredit it. Judge Callahan for the third time presided and as on the other occasions virtually instructed the jury to find guilty, by telling the twelve white jurors that when a woman charging assault was a white woman they should disregard the possibility of consent on her part and should accept her unsupported word as sufficient warrant for conviction. The defense, if one may judge from press reports, seemed a bit half-hearted—which is not a matter for surprise when the outcome of the trial was so clearly indicated from the start. The worst of it is that there seems no clear basis this time for appeal to the federal courts, although it has already been announced that appeal will be made.

New Scottsboro Trials Get Under Way

LEIBOWITZ DENIES SCOTTSBORO ATTACK

Late Physician Is Quoted; Defendant Reiterates Innocence of Charge.

DECATUR, Ala., July 20.—(AP) Basing his plea largely on testimony of Dr. R. Bridges, late Scottsboro physician, Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief counsel for the "Scottsboro" defendants, asked a Morgan county jury today to acquit Andy Wright, negro, because "Victoria Price was not raped."

His argument came after a crowded day, in which testimony followed closely that given in nine previous Scottsboro trials. Mrs. Price identified Wright as one of the nine negroes who she said attacked her aboard a freight train March 25, 1931, near Scottsboro, Ala.

Judge W. W. Callahan will charge the jury tomorrow morning.

Wright denied the attack, and Leibowitz read from the transcript of a previous trial testimony in which Dr. Bridges said he examined Mrs. Price two hours after the alleged crime and found her pulse "within the bounds of normal."

The Digest - -

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

Alabama Is Stubborn!

It is nip and tuck between the liberal and tolerant forces in Alabama and the prejudiced and die-hard forces, in the case of the Scottsboro boys. One week it looks like Justice may finally be served, and the next it looks like the Legion of Hate, so ably marshaled and led by the late Mr. Knight, may not be outdone. But, all in all, it is clear that the liberals are gaining ground for this week in spite of the blunt announcement by the State that it had twenty witnesses ready to take the stand in a last determined effort to electrocute the boys, the movement for "fair play" has spread to the neighboring state of Tennessee.

The Commercial Appeal of Memphis, published in a center of poor-white concentration from three poverty-stricken areas—Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi—in the midst of a public opinion so backward reactionary that Negroes have been all these years developing a school of higher learning—has come out within Alabama to seek a compromise.

Floyd J. Calvin

Says the Appeal: "It is refreshing to observe that the Birmingham News has joined with the Montgomery Advertiser in advocating that these cases be compromised. The defendants have been in jail for six years, the case has been to the Supreme Court of the United States twice, and only one of the six is under any sort of sentence now. Recalling that it has sided with the state and the prosecution, the Advertiser admits that 'Scottsboro has injured Alabama incalculably.' It adds, "let's throw away this body of death that has encumbered us all so long.'

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"It is to be hoped that this counsel will prevail. Not only would it be a relief to the people of Alabama, but it would be a good thing for the south as a whole."

Of course, Negroes don't want a compromise; they want freedom of the Scottsboro boys. But it is a step toward that freedom for the State to seek a compromise.

H. G. Bailey, Scottsboro solicitor, asked the jury to convict under a law "designed to protect the virtue of our women, regardless of their reputation or station."

'Jury 10' Hears Scottsboro Case

Oft-Repeated Attack Tale Told At Decatur In New Trial

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 20.—(AP)—The story of the "Scottsboro Case"—an alleged attack of two white women by a negro gang—was told again today by Mrs. Victoria Price and she looked at Andy Wright, saying: "Yes, he was one."

Wright, on trial before the 10th jury to sit in judgment of the case, mounted the stand and denied guilt. He said he did not see "any girls" on the freight train.

The negro was the first defense witness, following C. F. Simmons, Scottsboro deputy sheriff, who testified Wright accused the other eight defendants of the rape in a statement given in Scottsboro jail.

Wright said he and his brother, Roy Wright, Heywood Patterson and Eugene Williams were with him on the hobo trip which ended with their arrest at Paint Rock.

Fight Details Given

He gave details of a fight between negroes and whites aboard the train and estimated that "12 or 14" negroes were engaged in the combat.

Nine negroes are accused of attacking Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates on a rolling freight train six years ago. In the new series of trials, opened since the U. S. Supreme Court reversed death sentences a second time, the electric chair has been decreed again for one defendant, and another has been sentenced to 75 years imprisonment.

Wright's life, however, was not in jeopardy, the State having agreed to waive a death demand.

Mrs. Price told the jury, completed early today, that she was molested criminally by members of the negro gang aboard the freight on which she and Ruby Bates had caught a ride to their Huntsville, Ala., homes, from Chattanooga, Tenn.

Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, chief of the defense, questioned Mrs. Price in an effort to show discrepancies in her story, as compared with testimony she gave in previous trials. Mrs. Price replied to one question: "If I testified that, it's true."

State Mum On Compromise

State attorneys did not indicate whether the agreement in Wright's case, waiving capital punishment, might be followed in the trials still impending for six negroes. A source close to the prosecution, however, said "all the cases may be settled by next week."

In reversing death sentences in the "Scottsboro" case, the Supreme Court once held the negroes were without adequate counsel, in the first trials at Scottsboro; and on the second occasion, that negroes were excluded from the Alabama juries handling the case.

Leibowitz has announced he will appeal the new convictions—"twenty times, if necessary."

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Scottsboro Case Negroes 'Dazed' by New Freedom

Four Destined to Become Subjects of Experiment in Social Rehabilitation; 'Not Through With Other Five Boys', Defense Attorney Leibowitz Declares

CINCINNATI, July 25 (AP)—Breathing the air of freedom for the first time in more than six years, four 'teen age Negro "survivors" of the famous "Scottsboro case" left for New York tonight, destined to become subjects in an unique experiment in social rehabilitation.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer who was chief of defense counsel for nine youths originally accused, traveled with them and paused to condemn what he termed "Alabama justice," that resulted in convictions for the other five.

"Just why they were convicted is a question for Alabama to decide," he declared. "Justice has not been done and we're not through with this case so far as it involves those other five boys. Justice? Huh! Call it that if you want to."

He declined to divulge his plans.

The four in his party, however, enjoyed baths "with the first soap we're had in more'n two weeks," one said, and with something more than prison fare under their belts, whiled away two hours in a Negro neighborhood motion picture theater.

The four, Eugene Williams, Roy Wright, light-skinned Willie Roberson and bespectacled Olen Montgomery, were "too dazed," they said, to say much about their new-found freedom.

Leibowitz said "the boys just can't be turned loose," after nearly six and a half years in jail, and declared he hoped they would be "placed in some vocational school where they could learn a trade."

Another member of the party said they probably would become "wards of some sort" of the American Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"It's certain to be a most unique experiment," he said. "The boys, two of them only 12 or 13 years old when they went to jail, have been away from everything for more than six years. Three of them," (Montgomery, Wright and Williams) were sentenced to death. Now, they're free."

Leibowitz said no effort would be made to "capitalize" on them or commercialize the case.

The party left Decatur "within three minutes after the boys were freed," announcing plans to go to Chattanooga, headed instead for Nashville, under police protection, Liebowitz said.

There, they were unable to arrange for air transportation to New York, and came on here by train. Inability to arrange a flight from here similarly caused a change in plan.

Scottsboro Boy Blasts Perjured Tale

Victoria Price Lies Are Shattered by Wright in Second Trial

DECATUR, Ala., July 20.—Andy Wright, one of the nine Negro youths accused in the Scottsboro frame-up cases, testified in his own behalf today, blasting to bits the perjured story of Victoria Price, alleged attack victim.

Denying that he had taken part in an alleged assault upon Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, the tall, slender Negro youth told the all-white jury that he did not even know the women were on the train until it reached Paint Rock, Ala., where he and the other eight Negro boys were seized by a posse in 1931.

Wright also denied that he had ever accused any of the other Scottsboro defendants of "rape," thus offsetting a trick used by Alabama officials to force "confessions" out of the boys by making them falsely accuse each other.

NO TRIAL SINCE '31

It was the first time Wright, the brother of Roy Wright, another of the accused boys, has been tried since 1931. For almost seven years, the defendant, along with six other of the young Negroes, has been confined under torturous conditions in Alabama prisons without a trial.

Testimony in the trial of Wright began after the State had agreed not to ask for the death penalty for the Negro youth and the defense had waived the calling of venire of 65 jurors.

The agreement not to request the death penalty for Wright was one of the first significant admissions by the state indicating the crass frame-up nature of its case. However, the jury which tries Wright may still find him "guilty" and fix his punishment at death.

Announcement of the agreement came yesterday from Assistant Attorney General Thomas F. Lawson, chief prosecutor of the boys. No comment on the announcement came from Samuel S. Leibowitz, head defense counsel. Judge W. W. (Speed) Callahan, notorious for his anti-Negro remarks during the trials, is on the bench.

Present in the court today was Lester Carter, one of the two white boys, in whose presence Victoria Price said the alleged attacks occurred. Carter will testify for the defense. Both Carter and Ruby Bates, the other white woman involved, have since the trial in 1931, declared that none of the boys "touched either of the women."

As the first witness for the state, the Price woman was again enmeshed in a maze of contradictions by Leibowitz who cross-examined her. She suffered many lapses in memory.

At one point she stated brazenly: "If I said that, then it's true," seeking to create the impression that whatever she said was "true" because she said it.

STATE WITNESSES

Other witnesses for the State included: W. H. Hill, station agent at Paint Rock, Ala., where the nine Negro youths were first threatened with lynching in 1931; Hill's two sons, H. C. and Lester; Luther Morris; and Lee Adams, who claimed he was driving his automobile near the freight train when a fight took place between the Negro boys and the white boys in one of the cars.

Following the trial of Andy Wright, Charlie Weems is scheduled to go on trial. The other Negro youths will be tried at the rate of "two a week" according to a previous announcement of Judge Callahan.

The ninth defendant, Haywood Patterson, is in the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham under a sentence of seventy-five years.

The defense caught W. H. Hill, Paint Rock station agent, in a flat lie. Hill testified that he had seen Andy Wright get off the train in Paint Rock.

Leibowitz, during cross examination, walked in front of Wright and stood between him and the witness. He then asked Hill to identify Wright. Hill was unable to do so, stating that Andy, who is over six feet tall, was of average height.

COMMITTEE ISSUES STATEMENT

The Scottsboro Committee issued the following statement yesterday.

"Because of repeated rumors that the cases of the Scottsboro boys may be settled by compromise, the Scottsbro Defense Committee affirms that it is not party to any compromise agreement whatsoever. The committee under no circumstances will surrender the rights of the defendants. It will continue the legal battle in the courts until every recourse is exhausted. The committee is wholly convinced of the complete innocence of all the nine boys on the basis of the original evidence and the opinion of the trial Judge James E. Horton. Whether the present trials in Decatur result in long-prison sentences or death sentences the committee will prosecute appeals at once with vigor. The basis for appeal to the Federal courts has already been laid."

Tell your fellow-workers about the interesting regular features in the Daily Worker, such as the columns by Harry Gannes, Harrison George and Michael Gold. Soon they'll want to read them themselves.

ASSAULT CASE COMPROMISED; NEGRO SAVED

State Agrees That It Won't Seek Death Penalty In Wright's Trial

LAWYERS IN CONCLAVE

Alleged Victim Of Attack Attends Conference At Decatur

By James C. Hutto
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 19.—Alabama's Asst. Atty.-Gen. Thomas F. Lawson today announced that defense and prosecution had reached a compromise in the case of Andy Wright, one of the Scottsboro Negroes, under which the state will not ask for the death penalty.

Lawson said that under the terms of the agreement defense counsel in turn would waive the calling of a special venire of prospective jurymen and would accept a jury drawn from the regular panel of 35 names.

The compromise, first in the six-year history of the Scottsboro cases, was reached after a three-hour conference between members of defense and prosecution staffs, at which Mrs. Victoria Price, alleged victim of the Scottsboro attack, was present.

Lawson declined to say whether the compromise would affect the trials of six other Scottsboro defendants scheduled to face juries at this term of Morgan Circuit Court.

Under Alabama law, the defense has the right to demand a special panel of 65 names in addition to the regular venire of 35 in capital cases.

Lawson's announcement was taken to indicate that the court will proceed with the trial of Wright, scheduled to begin today, despite the illness of Defense Atty. Clarence Watts.

Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, had no comment on the compromise.

Scottsboro Cases Closed With Four Defendants Freed

Negro, Still Under Death Sentence, May Fight

Others Will Not

Defense Expected To Let 4 Serve Sentences

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 24.—(AP)—Freedom for four "Scottsboro" negroes, and penitentiary terms for two others, came in swift succession here today, and a source competent to speak of the famous ... case said "this is the end of these trials."

After more than six years in Alabama jails, four defendants were released here at noon.

Laughing and smiling, Olen Montgomery, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams and Roy Wright ran out of the Morgan County jail and were driven out a highway leading to Nashville. They were accompanied by two State Highway Patrolmen and by the Scottsboro defense chief, Samuel S. Leibowitz.

A few minutes earlier a jury returned a guilty verdict and fixed punishment at 75 years imprisonment for Charlie Weems. Ozie Powell pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder, and was sentenced to 20 years.

The rape charges were dropped in Powell's case, as they were against the four freed. Powell was sentenced for an attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in January, 1936, made while the negroes were being transferred from Decatur to Birmingham.

One Still In Death Cell

A death decree still is on the record against one "Scottsboro" defendant, Clarence Norris; and two others are under prison sentences, Andy Wright, 99 years, and Heywood Patterson, 75 years.

It was predicted by a high source the defense "will drop the appeals in the Heywood Patterson and Andy Wright cases, and the Governor will extend clemency to Clarence Norris."

Thus, the source which declined to be quoted directly, foresaw the end of the case, which began March 25, 1931, when the nine negroes were taken from a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala.

Prosecution of the case during the six intervening years has cost the State between $50,000 and $75,000, according to Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael.

A prepared statement, issued by Asst. Atty. Gen. Thomas S. Lawson, Solicitor Melvin Hutson, of Decatur, and Solicitor H. G. Bailey, of the Scottsboro circuit, said the prosecution staff considered Roberson and Montgomery innocent and would release Williams and Roy Wright, brother of Andy Wright, because they were juveniles at the time of the alleged crime and "in view of the fact they have been in jail for six and one-half years."

In vivid contrast with the original trials at Scottsboro in 1931, the courtroom was virtually empty when the Weems jury came in at 11 a.m. to begin the most eventful 30 minutes of the six-year history of the case.

At Scottsboro, troops guarded the courtroom and hundreds tried vainly for seats.

The Weems jury was the 11th to hear the evidence in the "Scottsboro" case. All but one returned verdicts of guilty, and that, the Roy Wright jury at Scottsboro in 1931, failed to agree.

Set Aside Two Times

Twice the U. S. Supreme Court set aside death sentences, first because the defendants were "without benefit of adequate counsel" in the original trials, and later holding negroes were systematically excluded from the juries which handled the case.

The latter ruling brought changes in jury methods in many deep South states.

Negroes were drawn in the jury panel for each of the last series of trials, but none served.

Leibowitz, worn by the strain of nearly two weeks in a sweltering courtroom, was jubilant after the cases were dropped. "No statement," he told newspapermen as he left Decatur.

There was no demonstration in Decatur as the cases were dropped. The negroes were gone within 25 minutes. No crowd gathered either at the courthouse or jail.

The prosecution's prepared statement said Williams and Roy Wright were released on the "condition they leave the State, never to return." Their jail terms were such prosecution thought "the ends of justice would be met at this time by releasing these two juveniles."

The escape attempt which resulted in Powell's sentence was one of the most sensational developments in the long court history of the case.

On Jan. 24, 1936, he cut Blalock acting as a guard, at the top of Lacon Mountain in northern Alabama. Powell was shot by Sheriff Street Sandlin, of Morgan County, the driver of the car in which Blalock, Powell and two other defendants in the case were riding.

For days Powell hovered near death, but was saved when the best medical attention in Alabama was accorded him at the order of Gov. Graves. Since that attempt, the negroes have been carried between here and Birmingham—where they were held between trials—by highway patrolmen in a specially constructed prisoner transfer truck. Birmingham is 90 miles away.

Negroes Under Sentence

Of the negroes under sentence, Wright and Norris are in jail at Birmingham. Heywood Patterson is under medical care at Montgomery. Doctors are treating an infected leg, caused by an injury received prior to his arrest at Paint Rock, Ala.

Weems and Powell probably will be returned from Decatur to the Birmingham jail, or moved directly to Kilby. Leibowitz entered the case shortly after the original trials at Scottsboro. The defendants were parties to many law suits attempting to determine who should represent them.

First proposals for a compromise of the cases were launched before the death of Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr. Knight was special prosecutor in the cases, having been attorney general at the time of the alleged assault.

Knight died before the present series of trials began, and Lawson, his assistant during the many court sessions, succeeded him. It was Knight who carried the wounded Blalock to medical aid after the deputy had been ripped by Powell's knife.

The last few days of the trial had seen Leibowitz hurl charges of "hypocrisy" in the case, and "perjury" at Mrs. Price's testimony. He was warned by Judge W. W. Callahan to change his tactics or "get ready for trouble" during the Weems trial.

Another dramatic moment in the trial was the appearance of Ruby Bates in 1933 to take the stand and repudiate her story of the alleged attack. This was one of the things that caused Trial Judge James E. Horton to set aside Patterson's second death conviction on the grounds of "insufficient evidence."

SCOTTSBORO TRIAL DROPS DEATH PLEA

State Changes Front for the First Time in 6½-Year History of Cases

LENIENCY FOR ALL HINTED

But No Assurance Is Given That It Will Go Beyond Present Defendants

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., July 19—The first sign of a let-up in the prosecution of nine Negroes arrested six and a half years ago on a charge of attacking two white girls on a Southern railway freight train came today in Morgan County Court, when the State agreed to waive the death penalty in the case of Andy Wright.

Thus Wright, being retried a sequel to the United States Supreme Court order setting aside the verdict of a Jackson County jury condemning him to death, became the first of the nine defendants to face a jury without having his life placed in jeopardy under the Alabama statute which permits juries to determine whether the penalty for the type of crime involved in these cases be prison for ten years or the electric chair.

Wright, sitting with his back against the wall behind the table at which sat his chief counsel, Samuel Leibowitz of New York, heard the news of the State's change of front without a flicker of expression. Only last week a fellow-defendant, Clarence Norris, was convicted and sentenced to death. Ninety miles away in Birmingham, Heywood Patterson, saved from death three time by reversals of jury verdicts, waits in jail for his lawyers to appeal from his most recent sentence of seventy-five years' imprisonment.

Quest for Jury Is Begun

Mr. Leibowitz and the attorneys for the State, Thomas S. Lawson, Assistant Attorney General; Melvin C. Hutson, the circuit solicitor here, and H. C. Bailey, prosecutor of the original trials at Scottsboro, in Jackson County, refused to comment when asked if the attitude taken today should be considered as precedent for the six cases still awaiting trial.

They proceeded with the selection of a jury, with the defense exercising the same meticulous care as if this were still a capital case.

Once the State had consented to waive the death penalty in Wright's case, however, Mr. Leibowitz agreed to the dismissal of a special venire of sixty-five Morgan County citizens called to supplement the regular panel of thirty-five. Many of this panel of thirty-five were absent today, probably because of the heavy thunderstorms which struck Northern Alabama last night and this morning, turning roads into muddy swamps but lowering the torrid temperatures.

When Judge W. W. Callahan recessed court until 9 A. M. tomorrow, progress in the selection of the jury had been halted by challenges for cause which left the panel of veniremen short of the required thirty. The hour was too late for the Sheriff to round up the additional ten veniremen deemed necessary by Judge Callahan to conform with the letter of the law.

"It's all right with me," Mr. Leibowitz told the court, expressing a readiness to draw the jury from the twenty or more veniremen on hand. "It seems to me that one twelve is about as good as another."

Judge Callahan expressed the fear, however, that "some one searching through this record might seize upon a technicality" and get another reversal in the Appellate Courts. Drawing ten more names from the jury box, he instructed Sheriff J. Street Sandlin to round up the veniremen by tomorrow morning.

The oft-repeated charges of the Negroes, accused by Victoria Price, a white woman, of attacking her and Ruby Bates, who has repudiated the accusation, have made it increasingly difficult to find twelve residents of this community without fixed opinions regarding the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

One talesman examined this afternoon said he frequently had heard his friends say they believed the Negroes guilty, but that he had yet to hear any one in Morgan County express the view that they might be innocent.

The decision of the State to waive the death penalty in Wright's case came after a brief consultation between opposing counsel.

Accuser Clings to Story

It followed a two-and-a-half hour private questioning of Mrs. Price by the three lawyers for the State during which she was given to understand that she could recant the whole charge against the Negroes without fear of prosecution for perjury. She stuck to her story.

Of the five besides Wright who remain to be tried, two were juveniles at the time of the alleged crime and there are circumstances casting special doubt on the guilt of two others. A prosecution lawyer hinted today that an important announcement would be made before the end of the week regarding the disposition of these four cases. This lawyer also predicted that Norris never would be put to death. The Governor has the power to commute the sentence to imprisonment.

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DEATH SENTENCE METED TO NORRIS BY ALABAMA JURY

"I Will Appeal That Sentence To Hell and Back," Declares Leibowitz, Defense Attorney in Scottsboro Case.

By J. C. CHUNN
(Staff Correspondent)

DECATUR, Ala., July 22—Impaled once again by the blood-lust of the Alabama rabble, Clarence Norris, one of the nine Scottsboro boys, [illegible] sentenced to death for the third time [illegible] Judge W. W. "Speed" Callahan, the leering Czar of red-necked prejudice, who says that "these imps must be destroyed."

After four hours of deliberation, an all-white jury last Thursday returned a verdict holding Norris guilty of having criminally attacked Victoria Price on a freight train March 25, 1931.

Jurors Laugh

Judge Callahan read the verdict, carrying death by electrocution, discharged the jurors and sent them out—LAUGHING.

The jurors convicted Norris despite the shattering of Victoria Prices testimony in minutest detail by Defense Counsel Samuel Leibowitz and Associate Counsel C. J. Watts.

"We would not believe the testimony of Victoria Price under oath," asserted R. S. Watson and Sol Wallace, deputy sheriffs from Huntsville, home of the Price woman.

This meant nothing to the implacable, baiting Callahan.

White Women Can't Yield

"I also want you to remember," he reminded the jury before it deliberated, "that where the woman is WHITE, there is a strong presumption under the law that she did not yield to the advances of a Negro."

"No white man in Alabama would convict another white man on such testimony as that offered by Victoria Price," Mr. Watts told the jury.

The mother of Ruby Bates, one of the original "Scottsboro girls," told the jurors that Victoria Price had a "bad reputation."

"After the arrest," Mrs. Bates testified, "she and Ruby 'entertained' two boys in their jail cell. The boys were not removed until I complained to the authorities."

But testimony, regardless of its nature, was but as chaff in the wind of the powerful behind-the-scenes forces at work inside and outside of the sweltering courtroom during the trial.

"They Shall Die"

To John Wexley's dramatic challenge, "They shall not die!" the Alabama mob has savagely, flung back the answer, "They shall die!"

Grimly accepting leadership of this mob is Judge W. W. Callahan, nicknamed "Speed" because of the haste with which he rushed through the first trials over which he presided.

It is he who stubbornly employs the legardemain of obscure legal procedure to confound and harrass the defense attorneys. It is he who intercepts their plans and moodily baits them in the courtroom.

Rabble Wants Blood

Liberal, intelligent elements within the State would effect a compromise in the case because of the doubt as to the guilt of the boys and cost of the trials. But the rabble wants blood. Callahan and other politicians have their ears to the ground. They know what the rabble seeks.

Confronted by this monster of prejudice, Attorney Leibowitz, after sentence was pronounced by Judge Callahan Monday, visibly upset, vowed: "I'll appeal this sentence to hell and back."

The factory-like production basis upon which Judge Callahan announced he would run off the trials, was interrupted last Thursday when Mr. Watts was incapacitated by the heat and the strain he had been under. A continuance of a week in the next scheduled trial was granted.

Wright Trial Monday

But, nonetheless, he proceeded with the trial of Andy Wright this Monday. Charlie Weems is to go on trial this Thursday.

Leibowitz is seeking to have Ozie Powell committed to a State institution, claiming that he has gone instane during his six years in jail. Powell was shot last year after he was alleged to have stabbed a deputy sheriff while being escorted between Birmingham and this city.

Judge Callahan denied every motion made in behalf of the boys by Mr. Leibowitz. One of these denied motions, an effort to have the trial of Norris transferred to Federal court, is expected to form the basis for the appeal in behalf of Norris.

Denied Fair Trial

Leibowitz will claim that the allowance of only one change of venue under Alabama law has effectually prevented the boys from getting a fair trial, due to the preserved state of animosity which exists against them in Decatur and Morgan Counties.

Compromise In Scottsboro Case Talked Again

State Waives Demand For Electric Chair In Second Trial

By LeROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 19—(AP)—The shadow of the electric chair which has hovered over the "Scottsboro case" for six years vanished for one defendant today and brought new speculation the famed attack case soon may end by a compromise settlement.

Nine negroes are charged in the case of a gang attack of two white women—Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates.

The state agreed today to waive capital punishment in the case of Andy Wright and 24 veniremen of a necessary panel of 30 was completed when court recessed until tomorrow.

A source close to the prosecution said "all of these cases may be settled by next week," but the officials concerned declined to comment. No such decision has been reached in the case of Charlie Weems, who will go on trial Thursday, the State said.

The State agreed to ask only an imprisonment sentence after conference of attorneys. Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, Assistant Attorney General Thomas L. Lawson prosecution head, and Solicitors Melvin Hutson and H. G. Bailey took part in the conferences.

Wright "was one of the younger negroes" in the case and "is not regarded by the State as a leader of the attacks," Lawson said after the agreement was reached. Prosecution lawyers conferred with Mrs. Price before Leibowitz was called into the conference.

Lawson declined to say whether the agreement in the Wright case would be discussed for other cases. Five negroes are yet to be tried. Two have been convicted in the new series of trials.

A death verdict was returned against Clarence Norris last week by a Morgan County jury after Lawson had asked the electric chair "as a warning to other rapists" and "to protect the womanhood of Alabama." Heywood Patterson has been sentenced 75 years imprisonment asked in the Patterson trial.

Judge W. W. Callahan today dismissed the special venire of 65 after the agreement was reached. The jury was chosen from the regular panel of 35 veniremen, used in non-capital cases.

William Ritcher, of New York, was here to aid Leibowitz. Clarence Watts defense staff member from Huntsville, Ala., was not present. He became ill last week, forcing a postponement of trial of Charlie Weems until Thursday.

This is Wright's first trial since April, 1931. At that time, along with seven other defendants, he was sentenced to the electric chair, but the sentence was reversed by the United States Supreme Court which ruled the negroes had not had adequate defense.

Death sentences for Norris and Patterson later were overturned by the Supreme Court when it held negroes were systematically excluded from jury service in Alabama courts where the negroes were tried.

The negroes are accused of a mass assault on Mrs. Price and Ruby Bates. The state alleges the assault took place on a freight train speeding through North Alabama. The women said they were returning to their Huntsville, Ala., homes after an unsuccessful search for work in Chattanooga, Tenn.

GUILTY AS HELL!

"WHERE THE WOMAN is white, there is a strong presumption under the law that she did not yield to the advances of a Negro."

This pearl of wisdom came from the lips of Judge W. W. Callahan in his "charge" to the Alabama jury which sat in judgement last week in the world-infamous Scottsboro Case. How anyone capable of perpetrating such a statement is allowed to disgrace the bench of justice is more than we can see.

Put before Judge Callahan, the jury and the entire world, were cold-blooded, iron-bound, irresistible facts. That Victoria Price, a woman with a scarlet past, a lost unprincipled soul, accused a group of Negro lads of attacking her and her companion, Ruby Bates. That Ruby Bates, who had at least a conscience, broke down, repudiated her testimony and admitted coercion. And yet Color-hater Callahan says to a jury and to the entire nation something to the effect that the lowest and most despicable white tramp has more principle and more moral standing than the most decent respectable and honorable black man.

THE PASSING OF A PLAGUE

At the time of the "Scottsboro" attack one of the defendants, the State of Alabama now says, was 12 years old and another 13, one was too ill, in the opinion of a physician, to have participated in the attack, another was "practically blind".

The man who was too ill to participate in the crime and the man who was "practically blind" have told "plausible stories"

consistently in all of their trials. For these reasons the State yesterday dropped its prosecution of these four and had them escorted to the Tennessee line with Samuel Leibowitz and his associates trailing behind. Tennessee is welcome to all such plunder, so far as Alabama is concerned.

Thus the first break in the long and disastrous deadlock occurs with dramatic swiftness and utter finality. Heaven be praised!

What next? The Advertiser is not privy to the plans of the State with reference to the five remaining defendants, one of whom, Norris, is under death sentence, but the Associated Press quotes an unnamed person as predicting that Norris will be granted executive clemency and that the appeals in other cases will be dropped. Ozie Powell, who in an attempt to escape the custody of officers, stabbed a deputy sheriff, pleaded guilty to an assault charge and was sentenced to 20 years. The rape charge against him was erased.

The State could abandon its remaining cases, or it could ask for the indictment of the principals upon charges of simple assault without reference to rape, which is a capital offense. The principals could then be tried for assault and if convicted given nominal sentences.

The Advertiser is confident that Governor Graves will not let the death sentence against Clarence Norris stand. The Governor can commute a death sentence to a prison term, but cannot reduce a prison sentence, except by parole or pardon.

The Advertiser feels sure that the Governor will in the end put Clarence Norris in the same position before the law as those who received lesser sentences for the same offense face. That would be fair and sensible.

The Attorney-General and his colleagues did a good day's work yesterday and they deserve the thanks of the people of Alabama. But there is other work to be done in the same vineyard of hog weeds, dog fennels and poison ivy. In the sweat of our faces shall we live, so, let us labor mightily in our appointed vineyard! For as matters stand, less than half of "this body of death," of which we have spoken aforetime, has been thrown away!

At Last We Are Rid Of The Scottsboro Case

The Scottsboro case is ended. The state has dropped all charges against four of the nine defendants. In reality, the charge of assault on Victoria Price and Ruby Bates has been nol prossed in five of the cases, for while Clarence Norris Negro is under sentence, it is for a charge of assault with intent to murder growing out of an attack on a deputy sheriff. The other four Negroes remain under conviction on the charges of rape, with varying sentences imposed on them.

The dropping of five of these cases and the reported agreements concerning the other cases in which convictions have been secured represent a triumph of common sense and moderation. These cases, dragging on for more than six years in an atmosphere of doubt and dispute, with all the unsavory elements that have entered into them, have been a perennial nightmare to Alabama. The great majority of the people of this state, *The News-Age-Herald* is convinced, will rejoice to be rid of them.

At most, the truth of these charges has been extremely doubtful. There has been evidence and testimony to indicate that the Negroes actually were not guilty as charged. One of the accusers, Ruby Bates, repudiated her original testimony that she was assaulted, and denied that there were any assaults on either her or Victoria Price. The latter testified throughout the numerous trials that she was assaulted, though her testimony, in its conflicting statements and in its discrepancies with the testimony of others, was of such a nature that it was never conclusive.

Grave doubt therefore surrounded these charges. In view of this doubt, and in view of all the other circumstances, no one could be certain of where truth and justice lay. In this uncertainty, the sensible thing from every standpoint was to do just what the state has done—end the sorry mess in the most convenient way.

Apparently there has been an agreement between the state and the defense that the most convenient way to end the cases was to drop the remaining charges and let the convictions stand, together with an understanding, according to reports credited as authoritative, that clemency would be granted in the case of the death sentence imposed on one of the defendants.

The status of the five Negroes under conviction is varied. In the case of Ozie Powell, the charge of rape has been dropped, but he has pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder in connection with his attack on Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock in January, 1936, when he was being transported to the Jefferson County Jail. For this he has been sentenced to 20 years in the penitentiary. There is no question that this was a criminal act and that he was guilty as charged. Accordingly, in whatever adjustments might be made concerning these cases in the future, his should be considered separately from the rest.

As for the other four under conviction, the varied sentences imposed and the fact that the rape charges were dropped against the other five defendants clearly call for adjustments. Either all nine Negroes were guilty, or none was. Since there was so much doubt of their guilt that the assault charges were nol prossed in five of the cases, it would hardly be fair to let the sentences stand as they are.

In the case of Clarence Norris, sentenced to be executed, there is assurance, apparently, that the death sentence will be commuted. Another defendant, Andy Wright, is under sentence of 99 years. Two others, Heywood Patterson and Charlie Weems, are under sentence of 75 years.

Thus, while the Scottsboro trials are ended, there remain further questions for consideration. The responsibility for the adjustment and disposition of the cases under conviction rests on the governor. Since the governor doubtless knew of the disposition that was to be made of the cases in court whether or not he gave his own sanction to the arrangement, he must surely be contemplating an exercise of clemency powers which as nearly as possible will prevent undue punishment of some while others go free. This paper believes that the governor can be trusted to deal wisely with these convictions.

What the state officials in charge of the prosecution have done should be accepted by all Alabamians, and the state's course upheld by public opinion, regardless of individual feelings concerning the question of guilt or innocence. For let everyone remember that whatever may have been his opinion about the Scottsboro case, he could not be sure that there was any foundation for his opinion.

And whatever the governor may do in adjusting the sentences of those under conviction, it should likewise be accepted by all Alabamians. The final responsibility in this will be solely the governor's. The public should realize that, in the circumstances, the governor will be closer to the subject and will have a fuller knowledge of all its aspects than any other person. Whatever he sees fit to do, we may all be sure, will be done in accordance with the best dictates of his judgment and conscience. Let us all trust the governor's conscience and judgment in this matter. Let us all abide by any decision he reaches in making adjustments.

The state's action in dropping these trials was one of high courage as well as of good sense. The officials responsible for the decision and any others who might have had a hand in bringing it about are to be highly commended. And if there are persons to whom this disposition of the Scottsboro case does not give satisfaction, they can at least take comfort in the fact that a great and troublesome burden has been lifted from Alabama.

Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

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WE WEREN'T RAPED

SCOTTSBORO'S FRAMING TOLD

"These defendants did not, as much as touch me [illegible] Victoria Price!"—Ruby Bates, ex-mill girl and most central and dramatic figure in the Scottsboro case, swore at the second trial of the nine Negro boys.

In spite of her testimony and that of Dr. Bridges, late white physician of Scottsboro, who declared that Ruby and Victoria had not been raped, the state of Alabama continues to legally lynch the Scottsboro boys or doom them to a horrible death of long prison terms.

Ruby Bates' confession on the witness stand at the second trial did more than anything else to stop the legal lynching of the boys for over a half decade! Here we have her true story about the ill-fated train ride from Chattanooga to Stevenson, Ala.—a ride which turned the spotlight of civilization on the barbarity of Alabama!

By RUBY BATES.

(By permission of The Daily Mirror)

During the night we had started making plans to leave the next day on a hobo trip. The plans we was making up was for all four of us. But Jack Tiller, on account of his wife, said he couldn't go with us but would join us in Chattanooga.

The next day, March 24, 1931, all my folks was away. My mother was to work. Victoria had said that we ought to wear overalls. She had rid on freight trains before and she knew all about it. I put on a pair of my brother's old overalls and went to Victoria's house.

Her and her mother was quarreling when I came in. She told me that Victoria would not stop till she got me in trouble. She tried to get me to go back home and not go with Victoria. Victoria told her mother we was just going for a walk.

We went down to the colored cemetery and there we was joined by Jack and Lester. There were lots of people in the train we boarded. Some of them were Negro and some white.

It was about 8:30 when we arrived at Chattanooga. When we got off the train it was dark. We started down the track and met a boy who said his name was Carolina Slim. His real name was Orville Gilley.

Lester and the Gilley boy builded a fire and then left us in the jungle while they went for food. They were gone about forty minutes before they returned with food. We made some coffee in a tin bucket

THE NINE BOYS are shown in an attitude of supplication to the Supreme Court, which repeatedly has stopped Alabama from legally lynching them. Upper right show Victoria Price, left, and Ruby Bates, the two hobo prostitutes whom Alabama says were raped by the boys.

and then we ate what they got. And then set around and talked for the rest of the night. Gilley, he talked about hoboing ever since he was 12 years old and he knew a lot of poetry about hoboing.

Misses Jack.

Then Victoria said for us to go back to Huntsville in the morning. She said she didn't want to be away from Jack.

The next morning we moved over into another place from where we had been that night, and the boys builded another fire and went out for more food. While they was gone a white man and a colored man came by where we were. They asked us if there was anything they could do for us. We told them there was nothing they could do, so they went off.

Later there was two colored men came along. They spoke to us and asked us if we was alone in the hobo jungle. We said no, that we wasn't there alone. Then they asked if they could get some wood to go on the fire. We told them no, that we was letting the fire go out. I asked them what time the train came in that went west. They said it would be between eleven and twelve. Then they went on away.

Victoria and I went up on the railroad and saw Lester coming. Victoria told him that two Negroes had insulted me, and it made Lester mad. She told him this before I could get a chance to tell him better, and he went down into a swamp where some other Negroes were. He said he asked them if they had said anything to us and they said no, they hadn't. Lester and one of these men almost fought; but, when he came back, I got a chance to tell him that Victoria had told a lie. Lester then said he was sorry he had said what he did to the Negro.

Then the Gilley boy joined us again. We all went down to the railroad yard and sat down on a pile of cross-ties waiting for the train to come on. When it came we walked down looking for a open boxcar, but we couldn't find one. So when the train started to pull out we all grabbed the side of a boxcar and got between that and the one next to it, and stayed there until the train went through the Chattanooga tunnel. Then we got on top of the car. We stayed on top of the car until the train got to Stevenson, where it stopped to take on coal and water.

The sun was strong enough, but the wind was cold and we weren't comfortable at all on top of the car. It was too cold to be comfortable, even though along the way we could see that the trees were beginning to bud a little.

We all got off the train at Stevenson and stood around. Nobody bothered us. You don't have any trouble on freight trains unless you get on Hard Rocks' and Brewers' trains. They're brakemen that everybody knows. They're hard men and they won't let nobody ride.

When the train started again we got into a gondola car to keep out of the wind, anyway. There were about eight gondola cars in a row. We were in about the third or fourth one from the engine.

Later on, there were five other boys came to the car next to ours. They was standing in the car and talking over into our car to Lester and the Gilley boy. Some Negroes came into their car. I don't know what they said, but a fight started.

Decide to Stay Out.

Lester and Gilley started to join the fight, but decided not to, for they was not sure what it was about. Lester and some of the other boys—I guess they got scared—jumped off the train. The Gilley boy started to jump off, too, but one of the Negro boys pulled him back into the car.

The Gilley boy said that the Negro told him they wouldn't touch him, that it was the other white boys they were after. I didn't see any of the Negro boys very good. The fight was in the next car to us.

While the fight was going on, Victoria said to me: "I reckon those boys will tell the law in Stevenson and they will put us off."

I said they had no right to bother us if we had done nothing to them. After the Gilley boy came back to where Victoria and I was, I did not see the Negroes any more until the train was stopped at Paint Rock.

Victoria and I didn't intend to get off. We just looked over the top of the gondola to see what was going on. We seen a mob of about 400 people around the train, so we decided we'd better get off. When we got off we seen them chasing some Negro boys up and down the train.

They got hold of nine boys that wasn't all together in the same car and tied them together with a rope. Then the train done pulled out.

Well, when me and Victoria got off we started walking toward the engine. But we saw people coming along from that way so we started off towards the end of the train, but there was people coming from that side, too, so we turned back.

And then Victoria fell. The people caught up with us and carried her over into a store. They called a doctor and he said it was high blood pressure. She had had them spells many times before. He said she would be all right in a few minutes, which she was.

I was pretty excited, and I couldn't get everything that was going on. The crowd was mostly all armed and kept hollering:

"How many did they get? How many did they get off of the train?"

At first the people around were only talking about the boys being charged with vagrancy and riding on freight trains. I was in the grocery store with Victoria all the time, but I could see the men and the crowd outside. They kept asking me what happened and I only answered that I didn't know. That's what I told them.

Put Them in Truck.

Then I saw them bring the nine Negro boys, all tied up with ropes, over near the store and put them in a truck. Then someone come in the store and started talking about a rape case. I didn't pay them any mind, because I was scared with so many people around and being caught on a freight train, and I didn't know even what they meant with the word "rape."

When they said we was going to be taken to Scottsboro, where they had taken the Negro boys, I was still more scared. I thought they'd get us for riding on freight trains. I didn't want my mother to know I was being put in jail and I had heard about them being tough on people in the Scottsboro court.

I was wondering how I'd get out.

Then they put Victoria and I in a car with five or six men. The Gilley boy and John Gleason, one of the white boys that had been in the fight, was put in another car headed for Scottsboro. There was at least twenty cars altogether went to go to Scottsboro.

Victoria Says "Rape."

One of the men in the car started to ask Victoria what had happened. She started to tell a story with the word "rape" in it. But the driver of the car stopped her. He said he didn't want to be a witness and he didn't want to hear what she said.

The ride only took about twenty minutes. When we arrived at Scottsboro there was a crowd of more than 500 people starting us right in the face.

And then we saw Lester and the other boys from the train. They was standing on the jailhouse steps. The sheriff was standing there with them.

Then they took us out of the car and carried us through the crowd into the jail.

It's a dirty, rotten place. When you go up the stairs on the right of the hospital room there's the Negro cells. They locked the Negroes up in one of these cells.

Victoria and I was taken over two blocks in a car to the doctor's. It was still light and the streets were full of people. There was crowds on the sidewalks and in the roads and everywhere else. All over you could hear the word "lynching."

Some were saying they should have lynched those Negroes right when they took them off the train. Some was saying they'd get them later if only they couldn't get National Gaurds to watch them. Some was saying as soon as they could get ammunition ready they'd go and get them in the jail.

Physical Examination.

The doctor first examined Victoria and then me. He didn't ask no questions about the train. Just about ourselves.

When he got through with us they took us back to that dirty little two-story building and locked us up in a cell right at the end of the hall. All they give us to eat was some turnip greens with a piece of fat meat and a small piece of corn bread. And the bed Victoria and I had to sleep on was a three-inch mattress on the concrete floor. We stayed in this cell during the time before we went before the Grand Jury. After that they let us down to run around, around the cell where the white boys were.

Victoria, she kept on telling me I'd have to tell the same story she did or we'd have to lay out a long sentence for vagrancy. And she said I'd get Lester in trouble, too, if I didn't tell what she did, because it was against the law for a boy to be taking girls across the border from one state to another. She was older than I was—she's over 30—and I thought she knew better than I did about all these things and I believed what she said.

And every time she said "rape" I still did not know what rape was.

I never stopped to think about the Negro boys, for I thought they had us all charged with riding a freight train.

She told me what to tell over and over again. That we had been attacked. She said to tell that six Negroes attacked me and that three of them had jumped off the train. She would identify six of them as having attacked her, and she would also swear to the other three. And she said for me to take the three that was left and remember which ones they were.

So they got those nine boys into the hospital room and we was brought in there, too. They asked me to identify those boys and I said that I couldn't, except that they was the boys that were taken off the train at Paint Rock.

And then they asked Victoria. And she picked out six of them and said they had attacked her. They asked me was the three that was left the ones that attacked me and I said yes. Only they didn't say attacked, they said rape.

The boys only said: "We're not guilty."

Before we were put in the run-around there was one of the boys that Victoria told in jail was her half-brother. She told the sheriff lock him up in the cell with us. His name was Texas Slim. His real name was Odell Caldwell.

That was the day before my mother come to see me in the jail. A friend of mine from Huntsville named Oscar Campbell had a car and brought her to Scottsboro.

My mother made the sheriff take that boy right out of the cell where he was with us. She told the sheriff that he wasn't Victoria's half-brother at all. She knew all Victoria's people and she knew he wasn't any kin to her. She said she'd better not catch that boy in the cell with us again or somebody would sure smoke when she got through with them.

When they called us before the Grand Jury they asked me if I had been attacked on the train. I told them, "Yes."

They asked me to pick out the Negroes on the picture close and see if the ones that were not marked was the ones. I said, "Yes."

Then they let me go. A week from that the trial started.

OTHER PAPERS SAY

CLARENCE NORRIS' THIRD CONVICTION

(From St. Louis Post-Dispatch)

For the third time, Clarence Norris, one of the nine Scottsboro boys, has been sentenced to death by an Alabama jury. For the third time, this ignorant youth faces the premonitory terrors of the electric chair. On two previous occasions, after prolonged litigation, he was saved by the United States Supreme Court, which had some salty things to say about the medieval kind of justice served up by Alabama courts. Six years in jail for this fellow so far and three death sentences.

It seems to us that the actual consummation of the sentence would be merciful compared with the mental anguish Norris has suffered and must now be suffering. What monstrous crime did this youth commit? He and his eight fellow-defendants are charged with attacking two white women who were beating their way back to Huntsville, Ala., their home, in a freight car. They were women of notoriously bad reputation and easy virtue. One of them has long since repudiated her story. A poll of the 13 newspapermen who covered the first trial at Decatur showed 12 of them holding the evidence was too weak to justify a conviction.

At the time of the alleged attack, the Scottsboro defendants were mere boys. They were totally lacking in influential friends, education and money. It seemed like an easy thing to railroad them to the electric chair. But since they were first arrested, the boys have acquired influential friends and funds for their defense; what is more, their case has enlisted the sympathy of vast numbers of people, not only in the United States but abroad.

The issue long since has come to be whether the vindictive spirit of racial hatred can prevail against the forces of justice and tolerance. We like to think there can be only one outcome.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

5646

"FROM HELL AND BACK"

Samuel S. Leibowitz, famous New York criminal lawyer and leading counsel for the defense in the case of the State of Alabama vs. Clarence Norris, is credited with saying, when an all-white lynch jury returned a verdict carrying a death sentence in the first of the infamous Scottsboro cases to be heard for the third time:

"I will appeal the sentence to hell and back".

We can appreciate the exasperation of Mr. Leibowitz in such a situation. This probably accounts for the wrong use of prepositions in the reputed statement. We are positive the learned and eminent lawyer meant that he would appeal the shameful contempt from hell and back instead of "to hell and back." Then again, he might have had in mind the recent death of Lieutenant Governor Thos. E. Knight when he made the statement. It will be remembered that Dives in hell on beholding Lazarus in the bosom of Abraham made vain entreaties for mercy on behalf of both himself and his brethren. Mr. Leibowitz might have read the 16th chapter of St. Luke while the jury was faking deliberation and envisioned a pantomime on the narrative given therein in which Knight was Dives, Judge Callahan, the prosecutor, and the lynch jury were his brethren and poor Clarence Norris was Lazarus. This is the only explanation which can be ventured for the Leibowitz statement "to hell and back" instead of from hell and back.

CONVICTION AT SCOTTSBORO

Once more a Scottsboro defendant has been convicted and sentenced to the electric chair, and once more an appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court. Convictions of the other defendants who are to be tried in the coming weeks may be expected.

Clarence Norris, the Negro who was convicted yesterday, was given the maximum penalty, despite glaring discrepancies in the story told by Victoria Price, the chief prosecution witness, one of the two white women he and the other defendants are alleged to have attacked. Ruby Bates, the other white woman, did not appear as a witness. She long ago repudiated Mrs. Price's story, saying that it was untrue, and that neither of them was attacked by the Negroes.

At the trial which has just concluded, it was brought out, among other things, that whereas Victoria Price said she was beaten black and blue, rapped on the head with a pistol butt, smashed in the nose with a fist, and lacerated, Dr. R. R. Bridges, Jackson County physician examined her two hours after the attack was supposed to have taken place, and found no trace of any of these wounds.

Judge James E. Horton, who set aside one of the convictions in 1933, and was defeated for re-election, reviewed the testimony of Victoria Price in great detail in that famous opinion, and showed to the satisfaction of any unbiased person that the Scottsboro defendants are innocent.

Our hope is that the Supreme Court of the United States will reverse the verdict once more, and force the Alabama authorities to go through with another trial, if they are still unwilling to drop these trumped up cases. If this keeps up long enough, perhaps they will have to be reasonable, in order to keep from bankrupting Morgan County, where the recent trials have been held. Jackson County, in which Scottsboro is situated, is said to have been bankrupted years ago by the $50,000 expense of the earlier cases.

"THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS SHALL NOT DIE"

The verdict in the Norris Case occasions no surprise. The RICHMOND PLANET foretold the futility of the farcial trial given this Scottsboro defendant in an editorial published in its issue of July 17th written two days before the trial began. It used the following language:

"It is useless to take any evidence. This will have no bearing on the verdicts. Each of the defendants tried by this lynch court presided over by a lynch judge will be found guilty".

Be not discouraged. The fight will continue in unrelenting fury, until heathen Alabama repents of its cruelty to these oppressed boys and until she is scourged for her iniquities. Regardless of the decisions of the Alabama mock courts put together, millions have sworn and are determined to make good their oaths at all hazards: "The Scottsboro boys shall not die".

Is there no power able and capable of admonishing these Alabama heathens? Is there no voice carrying convictions which can tell them to "flee from the wrath to come", an inevitable result, if they persist in persecuting these innocent victims of southern race hatred, these martyrs to bestial political intrigue?

"The Scottsboro Boys Shall Not Die". This is a warning which should not go unheeded, if a dire reckoning is to be avoided.

A NEW DOUBLE STANDARD

From the Anderson (S. C.) Independent.

In Decatur, Alabama, Judge Callahan warns that he is going to hold "somebody in contempt" if Scottsboro case literature is distributed in and around his courtroom during the present trials—the Communists having made a practice of distributing this literature in the past.

On the same page which carries the Callahan story, we notice that eight Russians have been given the death sentence for treason and for attempting to wreck "national economy" in the Soviet republic of Georgia.

In a few days the Communist magazines will blaze forth with denunciations of Judge Callahan for his "Fascist edict," and in the same issues Stalin will be lauded to the skies for showing, through these latest executions, that he doesn't intend to let any capitalistic propaganda be spread in his land.

In other words, the Communists upbraid America and give us a tongue lashing the moment we curb what they consider their rights of "free speech" while over in Russia the Communists put to death those men who dare to exercise the liberties which the Communists demand in this country as their "constitutional rights." It is nothing more than the old-fashioned double standard of sex carried into government.

SCOTTSBORO JUDGE WARNS LEIBOWITZ

Court Angered by Attorney's Maner in Cross-Examining Mrs. Victoria Price

REJECTS PERJURY MOTION

Inconsistencies Brought Out Between Witness' Testimony Now and Previously

By F. RAYMOND DANIELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DECATUR, Ala., July 22.—Victoria Price telling her sordid story of a mass attack by nine Negroes before the eleventh jury to sit in judgment in the Scottsboro cases, spent an uncomfortable morning on the witness stand today under a cross-examination by Samuel Leibowitz, defense attorney.

The duel of wits between the New York criminal lawyer and the defiant mill worker was the highlight of a long court day in which the trial of Charlie Weems began and ended with the State and the defense submitting evidence with record-breaking speed.

This jury, like the one which condemned Andy Wright yesterday to a ninety-nine-year sentence in the penitentiary, is barred by law from sentencing Weems to death. There is no limit, however, to the length of the prison sentence it may impose.

Delivering one of the closing arguments for the State, H. G. Bailey, Jackson County Solicitor who was prosecutor of the original trials at Scottsboro, pressed the thought that this was a case in which a white woman accused a Negro of a crime worse than murder. He declared that when Weems and his companions told Mrs. Price that they were going to take her North and make her their woman" they "hurled a challenge against the laws of Alabama, the sovereignty of the State and the sanctity of white womanhood."

Mrs. Price Is First Witness

He defended his action in failing to call Lester Carter, a defense witness, who testified that in the jail at Scottsboro Mrs. Price asked him to "back up her story" so that she and her friends would not go to jail for hoboing on a freight train, by saying that even six and a half years ago Carter was "a defendant's witness." Carter was one of the white hoboes thrown off the train by the Negroes in a fight.

When Mr. Leibowitz undertook to cross-examine Mrs. Price she shouted defiant answers.

Within three minutes after her cross-examination started, Mr. Leibowitz had her contradicting herself about when she counted the Negroes who attacked her. Today she said it was after they had piled into the gondola car.

At Scottsboro, the record showed, she swore she counted them one by one as they swarmed into the car. Mrs. Price said she did not remember saying anything of the kind at Scottsboro and when Mr. Leibowitz insisted that she tell which version of her story she wanted the jury to believe, Mr. Lawson arose to demand that the court instruct counsel to show some respect for the complaining witness.

Then Mr. Leibowitz asked her to take a good look at the defendant, whom she said she had not seen for the past six years. He asked if she could identify him positively as one of the men who attacked her. She said she certainly could. Mr. Leibowitz then asked if she noted any change in his physical appearance since she last saw him. Mrs. Price studied the features of Weems for several minutes and then said:

"He's looking bigger like all over."

"Anything else?" demanded Mr. Leibowitz.

Mrs. Price studied the Negro carefully again.

"He's lighter," she said, "a little lighter and ashier-looking."

"Take a good look now and see if you can't see any other change in his appearance,'" ordered Mr. Leibowitz.

Questioned About Mustache

"I won't say,' 'said Mrs. Price, settling back in her chair.

"Do you notice his mustache?" asked the defense attorney, "he didnt have that in Scottsboro did he?"

"I don't remember that he did," said Mrs. Price.

Mr. Leibowitz asked Mrs. Price then if she knew Lester Carter, who, according to testimony in earlier trials, accompanied her and Ruby Bates on an overnight hobo trip to Chattanooga the day before she says the negroes attacked her.

"If I did I dont remember," said Mrs. Price.

All subsequent efforts of Mr. Leibowitz to probe that phase of the story were blocked by objections from the State which were sustained by the court.

When Mr. Leibowitz pressed her aggressively on her testimony at other trials on injuries suffered in the attack and other points at which she contradicted herself, Judge W. W. Callahan took a hand in the proceedings without waiting for objections from the State. Finally, when Mr. Leibowitz persisted his attack upon the complaining witness' credibility, the court warned him to desist.

"It is not too late," said the judge, who is 77 years old, "for the court to enforce its orders. Your manner is going to lead to trouble, Mr. Leibowitz and you might as well get ready for it."

The noon recess intervened and nothing happened.

Isn't it a fact that you decided to accuse these Negroes falsely to save yourself from arrest for hoboing?" asked Mr. Leibowitz in the afternoon session.

"No sir," said Mrs. Price.

Leibowitz Motion Denied

Mr. Leibowitz then asked Judge Callahan to excuse the jury in order that he might make a motion. When the door closed behind the jury, Mr. Leibowitz rose and said:

"I move that the testimony of Victoria Price be stricken from the record on the ground that her testimony is so rampant with perjury that the court is constrained——"

Judge Callahan did not let him finish. He denied the motion and ordered the Sheriff to bring back the jurors.

The selection of the jury consumed a large part of the morning session. Mr! Leibwitz aroused the court's ire at the outset by suggesting that the State pick any jury it wished since the outcome would be the same.

DEATH CHAIR DOOM OF ONE; OTHERS, JAIL

Two Who Were 'Juveniles' at Time of Crime Are Cleared of Charges

TWO AILING MEN RELEASED

Rape Accusation Against Powell Dropped When He Pleads Guilty of Assault

DECATUR, Ala., July 24 (AP)—Swift court action in the Scottsboro mass rape case freed two Negroes and left five others under sentences ranging from 20 years imprisonment to death today.

Prosecutors agreed to dismissal of charges against two who were "juveniles," one who was ill and one who was "practically blind" when possemen dragged nine Negroes from a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala., March 25, 1931.

The charges were assault in a gondola car upon two white women mill workers, Ruby Bates and Victoria Price.

Of the five other Negroes, four were under sentence for rape after a series of retrials and one, Ozie Powell, for assault with intent to murder in slashing a deputy sheriff with a knife Jan. 22, 1936.

Twice returned to Alabama by the United States supreme court, the case left the prisoners in this status today:

Clarence Norris, convicted for the third time, death.

Andy Wright, convicted second time, 99 years.

Heywood Patterson, convicted fourth time, 75 years.

Charlie Weems, convicted second time, 75 years.

Ozie Powell, convicted once of rape, who pleaded guilty to assault with intent to murder, 20 years. The original accusation against him was dropped.

Prosecutors Issue Statement

Freed after 6 1-2 years of jail life and court appearances were the following:

Olen Montgomery, once convicted and sentenced to death.

Willie Roberson, once convicted, and sentenced to death.

Eugene Williams, once convicted and sentenced to death.

Roy Wright, whose first trial ended in a jury disagreement.

Prosecutors issued a statement saying they were "convinced beyond any question of doubt, after going through eleven trials of the Scottsboro case, that the defendants that have been tried are "guilty of raping Victoria Price in the gondola car as she recited upon the witness stand."

"No Statement," Says Leibowitz

Samuel S. Leibowitz, of New York, stocky chief of defense counsel, had challenged her story as "perjured" in the retrial of Charlie Weems which ended in conviction today.

The United States supreme court once set aside death sentences because the defendants were "without benefit of adequate counsel" in the original trials, and later held Negroes were systematically excluded from the juries which handled the case.

Negroes were drawn in the jury panel for each of the last series of trials, but none served.

Leibowitz, worn by the strain of nearly two weeks in a sweltering court room, was jubilent after the cases were dropped. "No statement," he said.

New Agitation Is Urged

NEW YORK, July 24 (AP)—The International Labor Defense tonight urged "nation-wide action on a greater scale than ever" to free the five convicted Scottsboro case defendants.

The organization suggested mass circulation of petitions to Governor Bibb Graves of Alabama, formation of local committees and mass meetings throughout the country.

"The people of the United States have saved these boys' lives for six years," Secretary Amis Hall Jr. said.

"The people of the United States can save them again, through quick, effective mass action."

The International Labor Defense has been sponsoring the defense of the defendants.

TRIAL LAWYERS SWAP EPITHETS

Leibowitz Predicts Conviction of His Client in 'Scottsboro Case'

DECATUR, Ala., July 23 (AP)—Accusation of "hypocrisy," shouted by the "Scottsboro" defense, and a ringing state retort, echoed through the Morgan county courthouse today as another jury sifted the evidence in the mass rape case.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, the defense chief, flung the charges after he startled the court crowd by predicting conviction of Charlie Weems, the Negro on trial.

Given the case at 2:28 p.m., the jury of 12 white men was unable to reach a verdict in two and a half hours deliberation, and Judge W. W. Callahan ordered the jurymen to their hotel until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow.

The impassioned address to the jury by the noted New York criminal lawyer, whirling about a denunciation of "sanctimonious hypocrisy" in the case, brought from a state solicitor a counter charge that "Leibowitz has apparently tried to prejudice his client's case—an amazing performance."

Melvin Hutson, Decatur solicitor, said:

"If he (Leibowitz) hasn't premeditatedly tried to convict that Negro for publicity purposes, then I don't know what I'm talking about."

"Sanctimonious Hypocrisy"

It was one of the severest exchanges of defense and state in the six-year-old history of the case, in which ten juries previously have returned as many guilt verdicts against various ones of the nine Negroes charged with attacking two young white women aboard a rolling freight near Scottsboro.

Pleading before the eleventh tribunal, Leibowitz said:

"I'm sick and tired of the sanctimonious hypocrisy. Don't pay any attention when the solicitor gets up here and asks you to convict this Negro because his attorney comes from New York.

"That mob at Paint Rock (where the Negroes were taken from the freight March 25, 1931) smelt something fishy. That's the reason those Negroes weren't lynched when they were taken off that train."

Hutson, taking up the state's case, declared:

"It's headlines in the newspapers that have caused all this trouble down here. It's not the purpose of this court to play for publicity in the newspapers."

The state did not ask the death verdict for Weems. Hutson suggested "a term of years equivalent to life imprisonment" and said to the jury: "You can give him any term from 10 to 1,000 years."

Weems was the fourth of the nine Negroes to go to trial since the United States supreme court the second time reversed the state courts in the case, thus nullifying death sentences. Clarence Norris again has been sentenced to death; Andy Wright given 99 years, and Heywood Patterson, 75 years.

RUBY BATES IS "GLAD TO AID"

"I am anxious to return to Alabama at any moment to testify against the Scottsboro boys!" Ruby Bates, who now lives in New York, and who was recently dismissed from her job on the WPA, declared Tuesday.

"Neither Clarence Norris nor any of the other boys touched me or Victoria during that freight train ride on March 25, 1931," she said. "I exposed the whole frameup at the Decatur trial in 1933. (See Ruby Bates' confession on page 11.) I would have been glad to testify at Norris' trial this time, but neither side called me. Should the defense ask me to go down there and do so, I'll gladly do it."

Meanwhile, for the tenth time Victoria Price told her tale of rape by nine Negroes on a freight train bound from Chattanooga to Paint Rock, Ala., Monday, in her effort to uphold themamical law of the South and thereby send the Scottsboro boys to the chair. She succeeded in her ninth try, when a jury of white men brought in a verdict of guilty with the death penalty against Clarence Norris last Thursday.

Although the life of Andy Wright was spared when the state waived the death penalty in his case, this boy, who was only twelve years old when he was arrested in March, 1931, and charged with the crime, faces a long term in the penitentiary as a result of the tenth and same tale of Victoria Price.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, the defense lawyer, declared after the jury found Norris guilty: "I'll appeal this case to hell and back!"

In spite of rumors of compromise in the Scottsboro case, which preceded the most recent conviction of Norris, the actors in it came into court last week and repeated their familiar lines with the same gestures. And the expected climax came when the jury brought in its verdict of guilty.

Victoria Price identified Andy Wright Monday as one who raped her. Repeating the same old story, she said that the mass attack came after she and Ruby Bates had caught a ride aboard a freight train from Chattanooga back to their homes in Huntsville, Ala.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

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New Yorkers Jeer Verdict In Scottsboro Case

Leibowitz Plans Appeal; Defense Committee Shouts 'Prejudice'

DECATUR, ALA., July 16—(AP)—The "Scottsboro" case headed again for the United States Supreme Court today, to accompaniment of a charge "race prejudice" accompanied the new death verdict against one of nine negroes accused of a gang attack on two white women.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York lawyer and chief of defense counsel, announced readiness to appeal—"twenty times if necessary."

Defense Group Quoted

The Scottsboro defense committee, by a statement issued in New York, declared race prejudice and not evidence was responsible for the third electric chair verdict against Clarence Norris, first of the negroes to face judgment in the new series of trials in the six-year-old case.

Declaring "millions of people all over the world are shocked and horrified at the verdict," the committee statement again called upon "all persons to rally to the defense and intensify the fight for liberty of these youths."

The Supreme Court twice has reversed death verdicts of Alabama courts, once on a defense plea the negroes were without adequate counsel at their first trials at Scottsboro, Ala.; and second on a defense contention negroes were excluded from the juries handling the case.

Leibowitz Silent On Plans

Leibowitz did not reveal the plea he will make on the third trip to the high tribunal.

In Decatur, meanwhile, preparations were made to try the second negro defendant beginning Monday, in accordance with Judge W. W. Callahan's desire to clear his docket of the cases.

The second trial was to have begun immediately upon closing of the first yesterday, but illness of Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, defense attorney, caused postponement. Leibowitz said he was near exhaustion from the extreme heat in the courtroom which also was blamed for Watt's illness.

Norris and his eight co-defendants are charged with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train in 1931 as they returned to their Huntsville homes after seeking work in Chattanooga.

Jury Chosen To Try Negro At Scottsboro

3 Colored Jurors Called; Attorneys Prepare Hot Court Fight

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 12.—(AP)—A jury of 12 white men was chosen late today for the trial of Clarence Norris, negro Scottsboro case defendant, after Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, said he expected a "major development" during a hurried trip to Birmingham.

The jury was not sworn, however, when Clarence Watts, associated with Leibowitz in the defense counsel, said he could not answer "ready" for the defendant.

Leibowitz went to Birmingham at the start of a laborious afternoon session, which lasted until after 6 p.m. concluding a court day of nearly nine hours.

Members of the jury are Oatha Bartlett, Sam R. Brown, Tom D. Hallmark, Herman E. Owen, Lawrence Strain, Bert Childs, Jerry French, Gilbert Kinney, Marvin Martin, N. Brown Owen, B. Chandler Pittman and O'Neal Sharp.

Both Dewitt Harden and Lee Blob, negroes in the final group qualified, were struck by the State.

Farmers On Jury

Seven of those chosen are farmers.

The third negro drawn, Manuel Johnson, was excused because he did not believe in capital punishment.

Of the 66 talesmen who qualified under preliminary tests, 11 were excused for fixed opinions and five because they did not believe in capital punishment.

When striking began, the State had 13 strikes to 25 for the defense.

The defense sprang the first surprise of the proceedings by summoning as a witness Mrs. Emma Bates, mother of Ruby Bates, one of the alleged victims of attacks near Scottsboro in 1931.

Mrs. Bates conferred with Samuel S. Leibowitz and Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, during the luncheon recess, after less than half the jury venire had qualified during the morning session.

Norris is one of nine negroes accused of mass attacks on Mrs. Victoria Price and the Bates woman aboard a freight train. Mrs. Price was here as the prosecution witness, but the Bates girl, who repudiated her original testimony and said the entire attack story was a "frameup" was not called.

Watts made a painstaking examination of each prospective juror, asking if they had formed opinions, if they read the newspaper accounts of the previous trials, and if they "feared the opinion of your neighbors" in reaching a verdict.

Of the first 30 examined, six were excused because of fixed opinions and two because they did not believe in capital punishment. One negro, Dewitt Harden was in the group of 22 qualified. Watts did not ask him the usual questions, and the State passed him without question or comment.

Two other negroes were in the group which answered jury summons in court today. Several negroes were drawn on the venire for the trial of Heywood Patterson here in January, 1936, but none served.

Assistant In Charge

Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael, expected here this morning, did not appear in the courtroom. His assistant, Thomas S. Lawson, is acting as chief of the prosecution staff, said he was not certain the attorney general would come for the hearings.

Rumors of a compromise settlement, heard often in recent weeks, were not supported by happenings in court today. Spectators and newspapermen were searched as they entered the well-filled courtroom.

Leibowitz said the defense would not be ready without Roscoe Allen, fireman on the freight train on which the alleged attack occurred. Judge W. W. Callahan issued an attachment for Allen, who lives at Sheffield, Ala.

Several other witnesses were missing, but most were expected to be here by tomorrow.

Delay Seen In Scottsboro Case

Watts, Defense Counsel, Sick After Losing Court Battle

DECATUR, ALA., July 17.—(AP)—The second act in a revival of an old court drama, the "Scottsboro" mass attack case—is set for Monday, but court circles foresaw today a possibility of another brief delay.

Judge W. W. Calahan said he would wait until Monday to determine his course in view of continued illness of Clarence Watts, Huntsville, Ala., defense attorney.

Clarence Norris, first to face a jury in resumption of trials in the six-year-old case charging nine negroes with criminally molesting two white women, was convicted Thursday and condemned to die—the third death verdict rendered against him.

Another negro defendant was to have gone to trial Thursday, in Judge Callahan's program to clear his docket of the cases, but illness of Watts, whom the attorney said resulted from fatigue superinduced by the sweltering temperature of the court room, caused postponement to Monday.

May Need More Time

At his Huntsville home today it was stated Watts probably would be unable to work for several days more. Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of the defense, said he had not determined whether he would request further delay.

Norris has been saved from the death penalty twice by the United States Supreme Court—once on a determination of the high tribunal that the nine negroes were without adequate counsel at the first trial at Scottsboro, and second, on confirmation of a defense contention negroes were excluded from the juries which handled the case.

Leibowitz To Appeal

Leibowitz had announced he will appeal to the Supreme Court "twenty times more if necessary."

On continuing rumors a compromise settlement of the case may be reached, the noted New York lawyer only comment was: "The defendants never will plead guilty of rape, because they are not guilty of rape."

Scottsboro Negroes On Trial Again

The trial setting, the Morgan County Courthouse, Decatur, Ala.

Judge W. W. Callahan

Ruby Bates

Mrs. Price

Eight Negroes in the Scottsboro case are fighting for their lives and freedom for the fourth time before an Alabama bar of justice. Three times convicted and sentenced to death, and three times saved when their convictions were reversed by higher courts, eight of the nine originally charged with criminally attacking Ruby Bates and Mrs. Victoria Price on March 25, 1931, are on trial before Judge W. W. Callahan at Decatur.

NEGROES ARE ON ATTACK VENIRE

First Of Scottsboro Trials Opens Today Before Judge Callahan

By James C. Hutto
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 12.—Three Negroes were included in the venire of 100 prospective jurymen sworn in today in the trial of Clarence Norris, one of nine Negro Scottsboro defendants accused of attacks on two white women.

One of the Negroes was in the regular venire of 35 and two more were included in the special venire of 65 which was sworn in before Judge W. W. Callahan in an almost empty Morgan County courtroom.

As Judge Callahan administered the oath to the second panel, one of the Negroes who had been summoned asked to be excused from jury service in the trial because of a "fixed opinion" in the case.

Callahan deferred granting his request "until the proper time for considering the question of opinion."

The judge then began calling the prospective jurymen to the bar in groups of six for detailed questioning.

Each was asked: "Could you give the evidence in this case the same consideration as if the defendant were a white man?"

All six nodded in the affirmative. Two of the six, both white men were excused because they reported they had "a fixed opinion."

As the six-year-old cases were reopened, Norris, first of eight defendants to be tried at the present session of court, was led manacled into the courtroom.

Norris and the seven other Negroes were brought to Decatur early today under heavy guard.

Goaded by Judge Callahan of Morgan Circuit Court, who has announnced that the eight defendants will be tried at the rate of two a week until all are convicted or acquitted, defense and prosecution rushed completion of preliminaries for Norris' trial.

Swearing-in of witnesses followed the impanelling of prospective jurors.

Samuel Leibowitz, New York criminal attorney, and Clarence Watts of Huntsville, Ala., were in court to represent Norris. Alabama's Asst. Atty.-Gen. Thomas E. Lawson and Morgan County Solicitor Melvin Hutson are the state's case.

As preliminaries were completed for the trial of Norris, both defense and prosecution reiterated denials of rumors that the cases might be compromised.

Leibowitz said he had no comment on the compromise reports, but that he might "have something to say later."

Charlie Weems is scheduled to follow Norris on trial about Thursday.

"DEMAND DEATH" FOR THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS

In his summation to the jury, Assistant Attorney General Thomas Lawson has said he would demand death for Clarence Norris, one of the Scottsboro boys, who is now on trial at Decatur, Alabama. This demand we think, is not made in the interest of justice, neither for the purpose of upholding the written statutes of the state of Alabama. As everybody knows by this time race prejudice furnishes the fuel for the "persecution" of these Negro boys. No one knows this better than the prosecutor, Thomas Lawson and Judge W. W. (Speed) Callahan. In fact, we do not see, upon what ground, except that of race prejudice, the Judge or Prosecutor believe these boys to be guilty of the crime of which they are accused, as neither Callahan nor Lawson was present when the alleged crime was committed. Of course, the writer was not present, neither was the attorney for the defense; nor were thousands of others, yes, millions of others, who are interested in this case, present when the alleged crime was committed. But we who believe the boys to be innocent, predicate our belief upon the facts that the evidence is weak, and thin, and that testimonies upon which the evidence is built, are contradictory and false. With these facts in mind, we make the above reference to Judge Callahan and Prosecutor Lawson.

Few people, if any, will believe that Judge Callahan is fit to serve in this case. His rulings and remarks from the bench, and his general attitude as Judge in the case, all tend to show that he is prejudiced; and no prejudiced Judge can give a just decision. As we view the settings and environments in the case, it looks to us as though the boys will have a hard road to go to find anything like justice. Among the things we see in the setting are: the fact that the forefathers of the Scottsboro boys were slaves; their Chief Counsel is from New York (which the South regards as meddling); the present Southern cast system; an all white jury from a prejudiced community; the prosecuting witness, Victoria Price, is a white woman, notwithstanding the fact she has been referred to by Judge Horton, as a woman of "easy virtue," and she has also been referred to as a "hobo." In the face of this setting, in the ring parlance, "the boys are down with nine counts against them."

Of course, an appeal will be taken which may or may not mean six more years behind the grey walls of prison, for nine innocent boys. All because of race prejudice.

Alabama

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Legal Punishment for Rape.

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Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 8, 1937

COLLECTING FOR SCOTTSBORO CASE

THE famous "Scottsboro Case" once more is in the public eye, the manner in which the case has been strung out for several years illustrating how difficult are the processes of justice when to impede proves profitable.

There is not the slightest doubt that the Scottsboro case would have been disposed of long ago, and disposed of justly, but for the fact that various organizations outside of Alabama found it profitable to take a hand in the case and take up collections, with emphasis on the collections.

It is impossible even to approximate the sums raised by these organizations for the "defense" of the Scottsboro negroes, but it is not improbable that the total reached a million dollars. All sorts of persons and organizations leaped into the situation and began to "pass the hat." Collections were taken all over this country and even foreign lands, and the pan-handling continued vigorously for a number of years.

How much of the money actually went into the defense of the accused and how much found its way into the pockets of volunteer collectors, there is no means of knowing, but it doubtless proved "rich pickings" for many.

Such capitalization of the plight of human beings should not be permitted. There should be a law requiring all persons taking up collections to give a strict accounting, accompanied by regulations that would defeat selfish designs.

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
July 13, 1937

Scottsboro Turn Called

(New

The growing opinion among Southern editors that the Negroes involved in the widely publi[illegible] Scottsboro case may be innocent vindicates the position taken as long ago as 1931 by the late F. T. Raiford, editor and publisher of the SELMA TIMES-JOURNAL.

The first of the new trials of the eight defendants in the assault case is scheduled to begin July 12.

Mr. Raiford declared in 1931 that "only God knows" the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

"We are unable to say if the immutable standards of right or wrong were effective in determining the guilt or innocence of the accused in the Scottsboro trial, or whether the scales were made to vibrate by the extraneous influences against the unfortunate defendants," he wrote.

sdom)

"Whether the eight negroes are guilty of the crimes alleged, only God knows, but we do know the environment in which they were subjected to the ordeal of life or death left much to be desired."

He predicted in 1932 that the Supreme Court at Washington would overthrow the Alabama Supreme Court ruling and order a retrial of the case. He said:

"The action of the Alabama Supreme Court in affirming the sentences of seven out of eight of the Scottsboro negroes will be denounced as the culmination of miscarriage in many parts of the world. The storm of protest and objurgation will not be the outgrowth of a conviction that the negroes are innocent so much as that they did not have a fair and impartial trial. The trial took place under the menace of armed militia and frowning machine guns, with public feeling running high and a milling mob of thousands on the outside of the courtroom, whose emotions were whipped into a frenzy by a brass band and fervid oratory. A court proceeding of even-handed justice could not have taken place in such a hostile environment. Appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court on the grounds that the constitutional guarantee of a fair and impartial trial to all accused persons was violated and if the high court should sustain its own decision given in a similar case appealed from Arkansas, the cases will be remanded to the Alabama court for retrial."

Numerous Alabama newspapers, led by the Montgomery ADVERTISER, have recently questioned the guilt of the negroes and have suggested a compromise in the case.

Scottsboro, Ala., Age
July 8, 1937

FIRST NEGRO'S TRIAL BEGINS AT DECATUR NEXT MONDAY

At an arraingnment in which the most exciting incidents were the searching of spectaters for weapons and the impounding of two news cameras by the court, Judge W. W. Callahan decided Tuesday to put the Negro defendants in the notorious Scottsboro case on trial two a week beginning next Monday.

The eight remaining defendants after their brief court appearance this morning were bundled into a wire-enclosed truck and taken back to Jefferson county jail at Birmingham — their quarters for the last six years.

Rumors of compromising the cases so as to reach a quick disposal of them appeared definitely spiked with the arraignment.

Clarence Norris and Charlie Weems were formally charged Tuesday with attacking two white women hoboes abroad a freight train near Scottsboro, in March, 1931.

Norris will be the first to go to trial. Weems will follow him, and on succeeding Mondays, the others Negroes will be brought to Decatur in pairs from the county jail at Birmingham for arraignment and trial.

Clarence Watts, Huntsville attorney, entered pleas of not guilty for Norris and Weems.

At the conclusion of the arraignment, he moved for a change of venue to Federal Court, but his motion was overruled by Judge Callahan.

Samuel Leibowitz, New York attorney in charge of the defense, was absent as was Asst Atty.-Gen. Thos. F. Lawson. They will be in Decatur next week for the opening of Norris' trial.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July [illegible], 1937

Again, Scottsboro

JUDGE W. W. CALLAHAN, the presiding judge in the Scottsboro Case, asserted in May that he would not "countenance a settlement" of the case, and that the trials would go forward in July. Apparently, the desperate efforts of leading citizens inside and outside Alabama to persuade him to change his attitude, have been unavailing, for he has now set the trials for next week and the succeeding weeks. It would seem that the country and the world is about to be treated to another repetition of this judicial farce.

Every one knows that the Scottsboro Case has become so deeply enmeshed in Alabama politics, and that maintenance of State pride has become so identified in the minds of thousands of Alabamians with the necessity for convicting the Scottsboro defendants, that a fair trial has become virtually impossible.

Even the Montgomery *Advertiser*, which during all these years has maintained—incomprehensibly, we think—that the defendants are guilty, has at last concluded that the best way out is through a compromise settlement. Various other leading Alabama newspapers agree, as do a large number of the State's leading citizens.

But not JUDGE CALLAHAN, apparently. He announced in May that he would not "countenance a settlement," and he gives no signs of relenting. There is a bare chance that he will do so before the first trial opens on Monday, but it seems far from bright.

Danville, Va., Register
July 10, 1937

Current Opinion

POOR SCOTTSBORO!

(The Baltimore Evening Sun)

Next Monday the Scottsboro cases start again in the courts of Alabama.

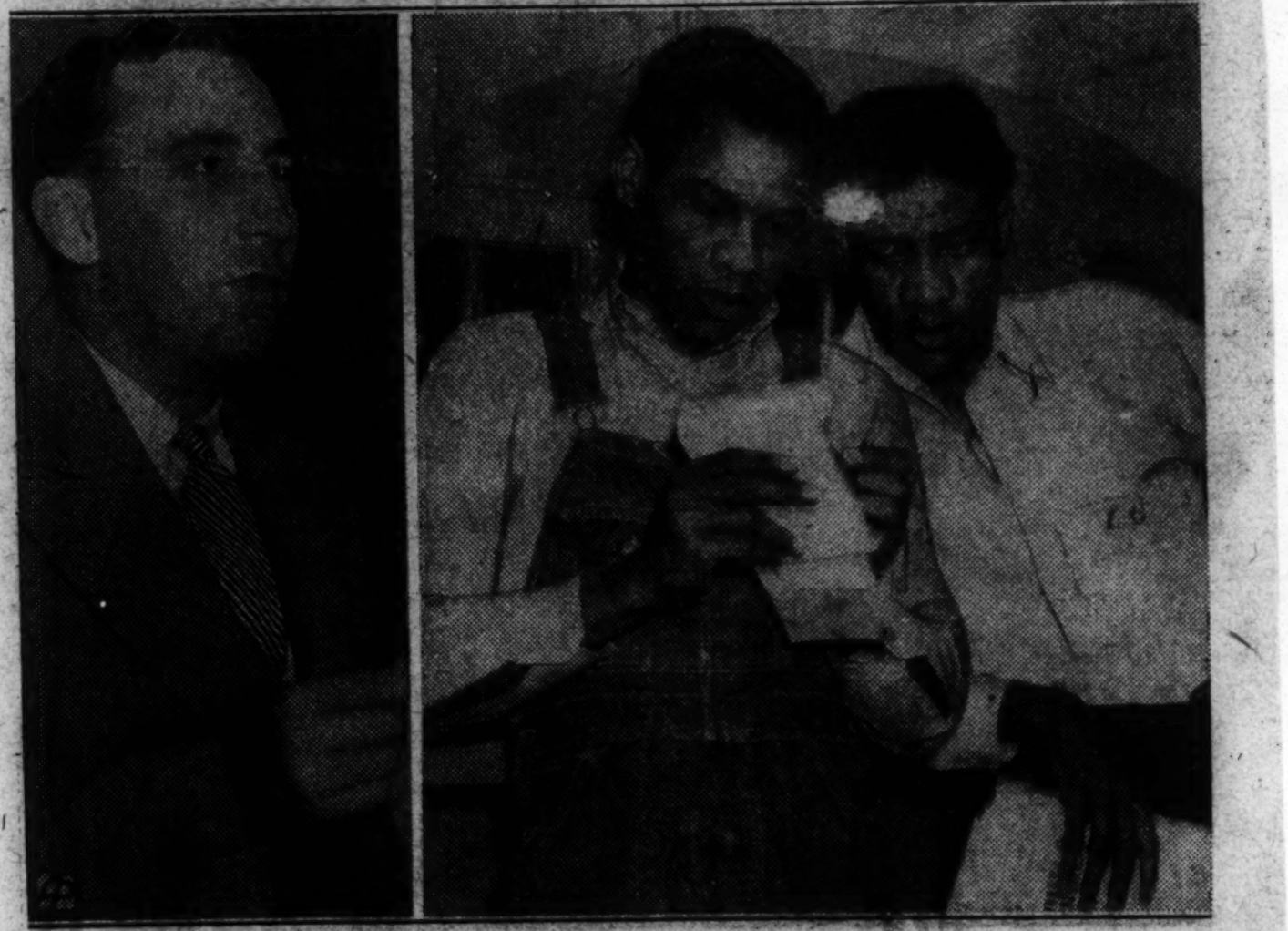
On more than one occasion The Evening Sun has expressed the opinion that the real victim of this deadful episode is the town of Scottsboro, which damned itself to world-wide notoriety by resolving to have no lynching. This case was dumped upon Scottsboro. The crime did not occur there. The prosecuting witnesses did not live there, nor did the defendants. Scottsboro had no interest in the matter save to see to it that the accused were tried according to law, and not lynched out of hand. This purpose it accomplished resolutely, and its reward has been to have its very name become a hissing and a by-word among the nations.

Yet, sympathetic as any reasonable man must be with the luckless Alabama town, one must hope—or, rather, wish—that Scottsboro's natural sense of injury will not blind her to the primary fact in the case. This is the fact that, although she is incontestably a victim, she is not the victim of the ill-will and unreasonableness of the rest of the nation. She is the victim of the reputation of the South—a reputation acquired by the perpetration of more than 3,000 lynchings in the past fifty years.

The world ought, indeed, to discriminate and to give Scottsboro credit for its extraordinary course; but, as a practical matter, is it reasonable to expect it to make such fine distinctions? Scottsboro, and every other Southern town that intends to be civilized, may as well face the grim fact that it must for a long time bear unjustly burdens imposed on it by the black record the South has made in the past.

Opelika, Ala. News
July 13, 1937

"COMPROMISE" RUMORED IN SCOTTSBORO TRIAL



Talk of a "compromise" in the celebrated "Scottsboro case" was revived at Decatur, Ala., at the beginning of a new trial for Clarence Norris, one of the nine negroes facing another hearing on charges of assaulting two white girls on a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., six years ago. Assistant Attorney General Thomas S. Lawson, who heads the prosecution staff, is shown (left) denying the compromise rumors. Norris (right) and Charlie Weems, another defendant, are seen in the Decatur jail just before court convened.

Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

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'FRAME UP' DENIED IN SCOTTSBORO CASE

Constitution
7-13-37
Atlanta, Ga.

Mrs. Price Testifies at 4th Trial of Norris; State Rests After Quiz

DECATUR, Ala., July 13.—(UP) Mrs. Victoria Price, alleged victim of mass criminal assault by nine negroes, angrily denied today she had "trumped up" rape charges against the defendants.

Testifying for the state in the case of Clarence Norris, first of eight negroes who will be tried on assault charges, Mrs. Price denied charges of Samuel Leibowitz, defense counsel, that she "framed" charges.

"Isn't it a fact that you trumped up this charge of rape because you yourself had violated the law by taking a minor girl (Ruby Bates) across a state line, from Alabama to Chattanooga, Tenn., for the purpose of starting her on a life of shame?" Leibowitz asked.

"No sir," was the angry reply. "Ruby Bates was the cause of me going to Chattanooga."

Fourth Trial.

Mrs. Price was the first witness for the state as the fourth trial of Norris on the assault charge began.

She repeated her testimony of three previous trials that she and Miss Bates and several white boys were in the gondola of a freight train moving through northern Alabama, near Scottsboro, on March 25, 1931, when Norris and 11 other negroes appeared, fought some white boys and attacked them.

The second state witness, Luther Norris, Jackson county farmer, testified he saw the negroes fighting with the white boys as the train passed his farmhouse near Scottsboro.

He said five white men were thrown off the train and that he saw two women trying to "jump off."

"Was anyone holding them?" asked Circuit Solicitor Hutson.

"Yes, the negroes were," Jackson replied.

Saw No Disorder.

A defense witness, Roscoe Allen, train flagman at Scottsboro, said he saw no disorder when the train arrived there.

"The train had passed several section crews but none of them saw any fight or asked that the train be stopped," Allen said.

On cross-examination, he admitted he found a pistol in the next to last gondola.

The state rested late today and the defense opened by reading testimony given at Norris' second trial in 1933 by the late Dr. R. R. Bridges, Scottsboro physician. Dr. Bridges died last year.

His testimony at the previous trial was that Mrs. Price received "only scratches on wrist and forearm and one small blue spot in the middle of the back." Her pulse and respiration were normal, Dr. Bridges, who examined her shortly after the alleged attack, testified.

Court recessed until tomorrow.

FATE OF NEGRO IN JURY'S HANDS

Post
7-15-37

Callahan Delivers Two-Hour Charge Before Turning Case Loose

By James C. Hutt
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 15.—A jury of 12 white men—the ninth to sit in judgment in a Scottsboro trial—today pondered the fate of Clarence Norris charged with criminal assault of two white women aboard a freight train in March, 193[illegible].

Birmingham
Herald

After listening to a charge by Trial Judge W. W. Callahan which lasted more than two hours, the jury retired at 10:50 a. m., and was still out early this afternoon.

At the conclusion of Norris' trial, Judge Callahan granted a defense motion that the trial of the second defendant, Charlie Weems, be postponed until next week. Weems had been scheduled to follow Norris.

Wright Next

The illness of Defense Attorney Clarence L. Watts was given as the reason for the continuance. Trial of Andy Wright, third defendant, will proceed on schedule next Monday, Judge Callahan said, and Weems will follow him.

In his charge, Judge Callahan warned the jury that "this suit is not Victoria Price versus Clarence Norris, but the State of Alabama versus Clarence Norris."

The charge followed defense testimony attacking the character of Mrs. Price, one of the alleged victims in the notorious Scottsboro assault case.

"Victoria Price has no more to do with this case than any other witness," Judge Callahan charged. "She was brought here by the state to testify.

Death Is Asked

"The law would authorize conviction on Victoria Price's testimony alone if, after studying all the evidence, you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty. The law does not require corroboration in cases of this sort."

Last night, for the fourth time in six years, the state asked the death sentence for Norris for alleged criminal assault of two white women aboard a freight train in 1931.

"Testimony of state witnesses can leave no doubt in your minds that Victoria Price and Ruby Bates were ravished against their will," Assistant Atty.-Gen. Thomas F. Lawson told the jury.

Samuel Leibowitz, New York criminal attorney and chief defense counsel, entered an insanity plea for a fourth defendant, Ocie Powell, contending that the Negro had become insane during six years in jail. Alabama law holds that insane persons cannot be brought to trial.

Two surprise defense witnesses brought the Norris case to a close. R. S. Watson and Sol Wallace, former Huntsville, Ala., police officers, both testified they had known Mrs. Price for several years and "would not believe her under oath."

Leibowitz Says Attack Story Is 'Frameup'

Advertiser
7-15-37

Effort Made To Discredit Woman's Testimony; Jury Charge Due

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 14.—(AP)—Samuel S. Leibowitz, chief of the "Scottsboro case" defense counsel, accused Victoria Price of "framing this rape story," as he pleaded before a jury today in an effort to save Clarence Norris, one of the nine negro defendants, from the electric chair.

The New York criminal lawyer said she "concocted this tale so the authorities would forget to question her about what she and Ruby Bates were doing on that train and what they had been doing in Chattanooga."

Norris is accused of participating in a mass attack with the eight other negroes on Victoria Price aboard a freight train March 25, 1931. He has been sentenced to death twice, and saved as many times by the U. S. Supreme Court reversing Alabama jury convictions.

The two white women, when the alleged assault occurred, said they were returning to their Huntsville, Ala., homes from Chattanooga, Tenn., after an unsuccessful search for work. The train was stopped and the negroes arrested at Paint Rock, Ala.

Leibowitz Hoots Testimony

Mrs. Price's testimony was like "an eggshell—hollow inside and easily broken," Leibowitz said in his summation.

Judge W. W. Callahan said he will charge the jury tomorrow morning, before beginning the trial of Charlie Weems, another of the defendants.

Clarence Watts, defense attorney, said "there's not a white man in Alabama that would convict another white man on this testimony," referring to Mrs. Price's story. Mrs. Price identified Norris as one of the negroes who allegedly assaulted her. Mrs. Price's "general reputation" was attacked today by the defense. R. S. Watson, former deputy sheriff at Huntsville, testified under Watts's questioning, he would not believe Mrs. Price under oath.

Lawson Sums Case

Assistant Attorney General Thomas S. Lawson in his summation urged the chair for Norris as "a warning to other rapists and a protection for the womanhood of this State."

"I submit this is the first time in the history of these cases any witness has dared to sit in the court room and attack her reputation," he snapped in answer to defense introduction of Watson.

Watts asked Watson, speaking of Mrs. Price:

"Is her general reputation good or bad?"

"It's bad," replied Watson.

Sol Wallace, Huntsville deputy sheriff, was called to the stand. He gave similar answers to the same questions asked Watson.

Ruby Bates's mother, Mrs. Emma Bates, was called to the stand on cross-examination testified she did not know where her daughter is. Ruby was a joint complaining witness with Mrs. Price at the original trials in Scottsboro, Ala., but repudiated her attack story as a "frame-up" in a later court appearance.

Two other "Scottsboro" defendants, Andy Wright and Ozie Powell were called into court today for arraignment, preparatory to their trials next week. Wright pleaded "not guilty."

The defense rested its case for Norris as the afternoon court session began and a short recess was granted before the State offered rebuttal testimony.

Charge Due Today

Judge Callahan limited summations to an hour and 45 minutes for each side and announced he would charge the Norris jury tomorrow morning before beginning the trial of Charlie Weems, another of the nine defendants.

Samuel S. Leibowitz of New York, chief of the defense, tried to enter a plea of insanity for Powell at the arraignment, but Judge W. W. Callahan ruled it was not presented properly. The noted criminal lawyer explained he was not contending Powell was insane at the time of the alleged crime, but had become insane during his six-year imprisonment.

Powell was shot in the head last year in what officers described as an escape attempt. An officer was stabbed.

Judge Callahan offered today to consider a motion for a change of venue, but Leibowitz answered that it was his understanding the Alabama Supreme Court had ruled only one change of venue could be given under the State law. The case was moved here from Scottsboro.

"If you present evidence to warrant another change of venue, I'll grant it, the Supreme Court to the contrary notwithstanding," Callahan said.

Leibowitz did not make the motion, the Judge agreed to postpone Powell's arraignment until he could look up the law on the insanity plea.

Electric Chair Is Jury Verdict In Assault Case

Advertiser
7-16-37

Scottsboro Negro Gets Death Sentence For Third Time

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 15.—(AP)—

Death in the electric chair was decreed today for the third time for Clarence Norris, negro defendant in the "Scottsboro" mass assault case who twice previously was saved from doom by the United States Supreme Court.

It was the verdict the State had asked, as "a warning to other rapists and a protection for the womanhood of this State."

The ninth jury to sit in judgment of the case in six years returned the solemn verdict after four hours deliberation.

Defendant Calm

Norris, accused with eight other negroes of criminally molesting two white women aboard a freight train, sat stolidly as the body of 12 white men filed in and the verdict was read. There was no demonstration in the half-filled court room.

Immediately, Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney and chief of defense, announced to newspapermen he would "appeal the sentence to hell and back," indicating the case again may go before the United States Supreme Court.

Judge W. W. Callahan, veteran jurist of the long series of "Scottsboro" trials, announced he would pass sentence on Norris formally next week, probably Thursday, when the case of Charlie Weems, another of the nine defendants, is scheduled for trial.

Leibowitz Disappointed

Leibowitz admittedly was bitterly disappointed at the verdict. Heywood Patterson, another defendant tried here in January, 1936, was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment—after having previous death sentences nullified by the United States Supreme Court.

Talk of a possible compromise settlement of the case had subsided before the death verdict for Norris was returned. Prior to the new series of trials, reliable sources had indicated a compromise might be proposed in court, in which the negroes would plead guilty to assault not involving a sex crime and receive prison sentences.

State attorneys declined to comment on the possibility a compromise proposal still may be presented.

Judge W. W. Callahan charged the jury, just before it took the case at 10:50 a.m. that "this suit is not Victoria Price vs. Clarence Norris, but the State of Alabama vs. Clarence Norris," he added: "Where the woman is white, there is a strong presumption under the law that she did not yield to the advances of a negro."

The defense had presented witnesses in an attack on the "general reputation" of Mrs. Price, after she identified Norris as one who attacked her aboard a freight train when she and Ruby Bates, textile mill workers, caught a ride to their Huntsville, Ala., homes after seeking work in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Defense Attorney Ill

Shortly after the jury took the Norris case, illness of Clarence Watts, of Huntsville, defense attorney, brought postponement of the trial of the second "Scottsboro" defendant, Charlie Weems, which had been scheduled to begin immediately. The attorney told Judge Callahan the fatigue of four days in sweltering court room had made it impossible for him to continue.

Callahan thereupon excused the Weems venire until July 22, but the trial of Andy Wright, third accused negro, will begin next Monday, if Watts's condition permits.

Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer, in his argument before the jury, accused Mrs. Price of "framing this rape story" and declared she concocted it "so the authorities would forget to question her about what she and Ruby Bates were doing on that train, and what they had been doing in Chattanooga."

Answering the attack, Alabama Assistant Attorney General Thomas S. Lawson said:

"I submit that this is the first time in the history of these cases any witness has dared to sit in this court room and attack her reputation."

The United States Supreme Court overturned death sentences in the case once when it upheld a defense contention the negroes, at their original trials at Scottsboro, Ala., were without adequate defense counsel. The high tribunal reversed the State courts a second time, holding that negroes were "systematically excluded" from juries handling the case.

Case History Given

Six years ago a hastily gathered posse stopped a freight train at Paint Rock, Ala. Two white men alighted, and nine negroes were pulled off.

Thus began the "Scottsboro" case.

Today, for the ninth time, a jury deliberated the fate of one of the negroes accused of gang molestation of the white women—Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates—aboard the train as it roared through the northeast Alabama hills.

State militia was called, to protect the negroes, shortly after they were arrested, but no mob action ever developed.

Taken first to Scottsboro, seat of Jackson County which gave the internationally known case its name, the negroes were indicted, tried and, in all but one case, convicted of attacking Mrs. Price. Death sentences were meted out. Later, one of the defendants, Roy Wright, was held a juvenile.

Outsiders Enter

Promptly, agencies outside the State entered the case. An appeal was taken to the State Supreme Court. On March 25, 1932, the State court affirmed seven of the death sentences, but set aside the verdict against Eugene Williams on the ground he was a juvenile at the time of the alleged crime.

Again an appeal was taken, this time to the United States Supreme Court. The high tribunal, on Nov. 3, 1932, set aside the death sentences, holding the defendants had been without benefit of adequate counsel in their trials at Scottsboro.

Taken to Decatur in Morgan County, on a change of venue, Heywood Patterson, first defendant to be tried again was convicted and sentenced to death on April 9, 1933. During this trial Ruby Bates, one of the original complaining witnesses, repudiated her previous testimony, and charged the "attack" story had been "framed" in the Scottsboro jail.

This sentence of Patterson was set aside on June 22 by Judge James E. Horton, who presided at the Patterson trial, on the ground evidence was not sufficient to justify the verdict.

In November, the cases were called again, this time before Judge W. W. Callahan. Patterson was convicted again and given the death penalty a third time, on Dec. 1, 1933. A similar conviction and sentence for Clarence Norris followed Dec. 6.

State Court Upholds

Both convictions were upheld in the State Supreme Court, but April 1, 1935, were overthrown by the United State Supreme Court, which upheld the defense contention "negroes were systematically excluded from the grand and petit juries" involved in the case.

The decision affected jury systems in several Southern States. In Alabama, a new jury law, providing for refilling of jury boxes to contain names of eligible negroes, was passed, and a negro served on the grand jury at Scottsboro which returned new indictments against the nine defendants.

Patterson's fourth trial opened at Decatur Jan. 20, 1936, and 12 negroes were on the special venire of 100 drawn for the case. All were excused or stricken, however, and an all-white jury returned a fourth guilty verdict January 23. Patterson was sentenced to 75 years imprisonment. The defense termed this a victory.

A third trial for Clarence Norris was under way last year when disagrement over a witness resulted in a postponement.

Escape Foiled

As the negroes were being returned to a jail in Birmingham the following day, Ozie Powell, another of the defendants, was shot in the head and Deputy Sheriff Ed Blalock of Decatur was slashed in the throat, in what officers described as an escape attempt.

Blalock was not seriously injured, but Powell was in critical condition for days. A brain operation proved successful, however, and he returned to his cell in Birmingham.

Alabama Supreme Court in June, this year, upheld the 75-year sentence meted out to Patterson. No further appeal has been taken. Trials of the other negroes, with Clarence Norris the first to face judgment, began at Decatur this week.

DEFENSE TURNS ON MRS. PRICE

Witnesses Attack Character Of Accuser In Trial Of Negroes

By James C. Hutto
Post Staff Correspondent

DECATUR, July 14.—Defense attorneys for Clarence Norris, Negro Scottsboro defendant in a new maneuver today attacked the general reputation of Mrs. Victoria Price, alleged assault victim and star state witness.

The defense put R. E. Watson, former Huntsville deputy, on the stand, to testify that Mrs. Price, who claims she and Ruby Bates were assaulted by nine Negroes aboard a freight train in March, 1931, had a "bad" reputation.

Watson said he had known Mrs. Price since 1924, and that he "would not believe her under oath."

Similar testimony was offered by Sol Wallace, another Huntsville deputy, who said he had known Mrs. Price since 1921.

New Strategy

It was the first time the defense had ever offered a character witness against Mrs. Price in a Scottsboro trial.

Taking the stand for the first time in the six-year-old history of the cases, Mrs. Emma Bates, mother of one of the alleged attack victims, testified she found "two strange boys" in the same cell with Mrs. Price and her daughter when she visited them in their cell at Scottsboro.

"I asked Ruby what those boys were doing in there," Mrs. Bates said.

"Victoria spoke up and said: 'I'll do the talking—they're my half brothers and I wanted them in here for company."

Mrs. Bates said the youths were removed after she complained to authorities.

In New York?

On cross-examination, State's Atty. Thomas F. Lawson asked Mrs. Bates:

"Where is Ruby now?"

"I don't know," she replied. "She is supposed to be somewhere in New York."

Attorney Wins Point

Resumption of the trial of Norris followed a delay caused by the arraignment of another of the defendants, Andy Wright.

The arraignment was marked by a bitter verbal clash between Trial Judge W. W. Callahan and Defense Attorney Samuel Leibowitz.

Leibowitz succeeded in having deferred the arraignment of Ocie Powell, another of the Negroes, after entering a surprise plea that Powell was insane and could not stand trial.

Alabama law holds that a person proved to be insane cannot be brought to trial.

In his plea, Leibowitz contended that Powell had become insane during the six years he has remained in prison. He asked that he be committed to a state institution.

Judge Callahan deferred action on Leibowitz's plea.

As Wright was brought into the courtroom, Leibowitz filed a motion for a change of venue to a Federal court—a customary defense action, in every Scottsboro arraignment.

Ordered To Plead

It was overruled by Judge Callahan.

Leibowitz ordered his client, Wright, to refuse to enter a plea until he was directed to do so by the court, and announced:

"The defendant stands mute to preserve his rights."

Judge Callahan ordered the Negro before him.

"Guilty or not guilty?" he asked.

Wright looked at Leibowitz imploringly, and then murmured:

"Not guilty."

Leibowitz arose.

"I want the record to show that this defendant was directed to plead by the court," he said.

SCOTTSBORO JURY PICKED

Defense Counsel Hints "Major Development" In Case

DECATUR, Ala., July 12.—(AP)—A jury of 12 white men was chosen late today for the trial of Clarence Norris, negro Scottsboro case defendant, after Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel, said he expected a "major development" during a hurried trip to Birmingham.

The jury was not sworn, however, when Clarence Watts, of defense counsel, said he could not answer [illegible] the defendant.

Of three negroes drawn on the panel, two were struck by the state and the third was excused because he did not believe in capital punishment.

The defense sprang the first surprise of the proceedings by summoning as a witness Mrs. Emma Bates, mother of Ruby Bates, one of the alleged victims of attacks near Scottsboro in 1931.

Lynchings – 1937
6
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

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ALA. SPENDS $50,000 IN 6 YEARS TO KILL SCOTTSBORO BOYS: TO TRY OVER

DECATUR — Alabama, which has spent more than $50,000 in six years' efforts to put to death the nine Scottsboro boys, has prepared for another act in the internationally-known drama of racial conflict, beginning on July 6.

Only eight of the original nine boys will be tried in the musty Morgan County courthouse before Judge W. W. (Speed) Callahan. One, Heywood Patterson, was convicted under a new indictment in January, 1936, and sentenced to seventy-five years in prison.

His appeal from that sentence was recently refused by the Alabama Supreme Court and is being prepared for presentation to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Fighting for Life

The eight youth will be fighting for their lives for the fourth time before an Alabama bar of justice. They have been convicted and sentenced to death three times, and three times their convictions have been reversed by higher courts.

The U.S. Supreme Court intervened twice and ordered the convictions set aside. One reversal was by Circuit Judge James E. Horton, who ruled that the evidence was insufficient.

The eight will face arraignment under indictments returned in 1935, by a grand jury which included a colored juror. One of the previous reversals of the U.S. Supreme Court was because it found that colored persons were systematically excluded from jury rolls in Alabama.

The trials have been delayed since Patterson's conviction for various causes, including the absence of a material witness and the illness and death of Lt.-Governor T. E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor in the cases.

Two Have Added Charge

It was at the end of Patterson's trial while the defendants were being taken to the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham that one of them, Ocie Powell, was critically shot by Sheriff J. S. Sandlin in an attempted "break." Powell, who has recovered, along with Roy Wright, face a charge of assault with intent to kill, as well as one of criminal assault.

Compromise Rumored

Persistent rumors have circulated that State and defense attorneys would get together on a compromise before the eight are arraigned. It was said that opposing counsel have conferred for several months seeking an agreement whereby the defendants would plead guilty and accept prison sentences.

However, A. A. Carmichael, attorney general, has announced that he would press the prosecution on the charge punishable by death.

There is little indication at present that Alabama will take special precautions against demonstrations when the trials are reopened other than to send a detachment of highway patrolmen to Decatur to preserve order.

Testimony Repudiated

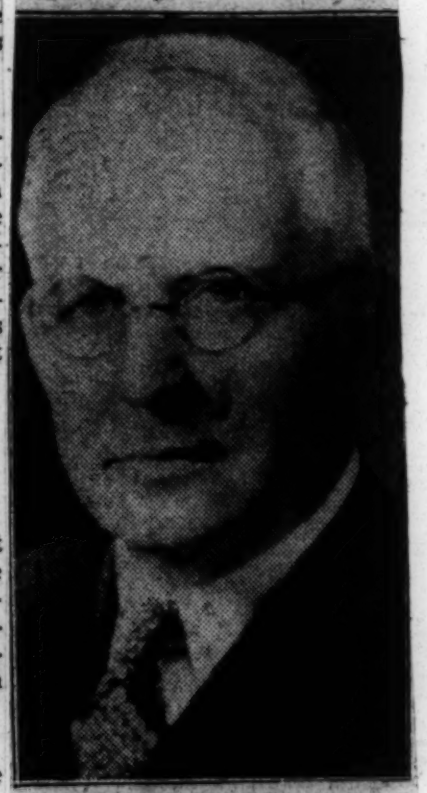
The youth probably will be brought here on July 6, for arraignment and then returned to Birmingham pending the actual opening of the trials. The State will again recount its oft-repeated charge that the eight, together with Patterson, assaulted Ruby Bates and Victoria Price, women hoboes on a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in March, 1931.

At the first trial, Mrs. Price identified the defendants. At the second trial of Patterson, Miss Bates repudiated Mrs. Price's testimony, contending that the charges were framed.

Leibowitz Expected

Samuel Leibowitz, New York chief of the Scottsboro defense counsel, plans to return to represent the boys. He will be assisted by Clarence Watts, Huntsville, Ala., attorney, who argued Patterson's appeal before the Alabama Supreme Court in May. Both are white.

It On No Deal



JUDGE W. W. CALLAHAN

Compromises In Scottsboro Cases Denied

Judge Callahan Asserts He's Unaware Of Any Pre-Trial Agreements

DECATUR, ALA., July 4.—(AP)—Circuit Court Judge W. W. Callahan today denied knowledge of a reported possibility of a compromise in the "Scottsboro" cases as the State prepared to arraign eight of the nine negro defendants of the six-year-old attack charge.

Callahan, who will preside over the trials of the negroes, said:

"If there is to be a compromise, it's news to me. I have not discussed the possibility of a compromise with anybody."

Following rumors that the case might be compromised, several Alabama papers editorially endorsed the idea. As yet, no official statement as to the possibility of a compromise has come from either defense or prosecution. Unofficial sources, however, said persons interested in terminating the long legal battle in the cases, have suggested the negroes plead guilty to assault not involving a sex crime, and receive jail sentences.

Trial Set For Tuesday

Callahan said the negroes will be arraigned at 9 a.m. Tuesday but did not make public the time he expects them to arrive here from Birmingham, where they are held in jail.

They will be "amply guarded," Callahan said, but added no extra precautions were deemed necessary. The State Highway Patrol aided the sheriff in handling the prisoners at the last trial in 1936 and this procedure probably will be repeated.

Seven of the negroes who will face Judge Callahan Tuesday have not been tried since they originally were sentenced to death at Scottsboro, Ala. in April, 1931.

The ninth defendant, Heywood Patterson is under sentence of 75 years imprisonment. He was convicted last year on a charge of criminal assault against Mrs. Victoria Price, the charge on which the eight defendants are to be tried at this time.

The circuit clerks order, setting the arraignment, listed the defendants in the following order: Charlie Weems, Clarence Norris, Olen Montgomery, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Roy Wright, Andy Wright and Eugene Williams.

It was pointed out the order of the clerk's writ was not necessarily the order in which the negroes would be tried.

Clarence Watts, defense attorney, said the defense expected Clarence Norris, the only negro tried since the first Scottsboro trial, to be the first negro to go before the court.

Watts will come here from Huntsville, Ala., his home, for the arraignment.

Leibowitz Due

Samuel Leibowitz, of New York, chief defense counsel, was expected to arrive tonight. Thomas S. Lawson, assistant attorney general, will head the prosecution and is to arrive tomorrow.

Lawson was aid to Thomas E. Knight, Jr., special prosecutor in the cases, who died a few months ago.

'Scottsboro Case' Ready For Trial

DECATUR, ALA., June 18.—(AP) Preparations for the ... Scottsboro attacks ... advanced today ... persistent but unconfirmed reports another delay or compromise impended.

Judge W. W. Callahan set the cases of eight of the nine negro defendants for July 6. They will be arraigned on indictments charging them with attacking Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., March 25, 1931.

Under normal court purocedure, the trial judge then will direct calling of a special Grand Jury venire, and individual cases will be set. Actual trials may not start before July 12.

Samuel S. Liebowitz, New York attorney and chief of defense counsel, said he expected to be here July 4 to make local arrangements for the case.

Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael will head the prosecution staff, replacing the late Lieut. Gov. Thomas E. Knight, Jr., who handled the cases as attorney general in a previous administration, and as special prosecutor after his election to the lieutenant governorship.

Carmichael has denied, repeatedly, reports the State would agree to short sentences for the negroes if they entered guilty pleas. He was absent from his office at Montgomery today, but usually reliable sources said this has "nothing to do with the Scottsboro case."

Several Alabama newspapers have suggested the negroes, now held in jail at Birmingham, be allowed to plead guilty under a compromise agreement.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
June 26, 1937

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

THE Nation, a left-wing weekly magazine published in New York and for six years the chief journalistic advocate of the Scottsboro "boys" in this country. It has filled column after column with propaganda about the "boys" and on numerous occasions it has denounced the courts of Alabama as unjust, inefficient and corrupt.

The Nation wants a compromise in the Scottsboro case—but what sort of a compromise?

The Nation, of course, wants a compromise in which the "boys" would be set free, and it is apparent that only a compromise of that nature will be "decent" in the eyes of The Nation.

In its comment, The Nation points out that a petition directed to Bibb Graves and Attorney General Carmichael is to be circulated soon by the "Scottsboro Defense Committee"—a political agency spawned by the get-a-defense-quick boys—asking that the negroes be realeased, and the week of July 1-6 has already been set aside as "National Scottsboro Week." As you will notice, "National Scottsboro Week" coincides neatly with the resumption of the trials on July 6.

The Nation is moved to comment:

"We hope every organization and individual interested in common justice will get behind this move and roll up a list of signatures that the state cannot ignore, for there is at least a chance that the mass pressure which has kept the boys alive for six years can now actually bring about that much-to-be-desired ending." Observe the words "mass pressure." We thought that the courts in this country were supposed to be free from pressure, "mass" or otherwise—and surely The Nation cannot tolerate the "mass pressure" which it believes was exerted in Alabama against these negroes.

The Nation does consent to consider a compromise, concluding that "an honorable, fair, and just settlement is the one set forth in the petition we have mentioned—that the boys be set free."

Outright freedom, as advocated by The Nation, may be the compromise which the prosecuting staff at Montgomery has in mind, or Alabama may even be called on to make financial restitution to the "boys" who have now been in jail six years. We do not know.

But we do know that the whole thing presents a sorry spectacle. It no longer seems to be a matter of justice. It seems to be a matter of what the outside world thinks of Alabama—of what the New Yorker thinks, or what the Muscovite thinks.

We again say that if a duly-organized Alabama jury sees fit to free these negroes of those charges, we will have utterly no objection, but we cannot follow along if the prosecuting authorities of this state agree to join the International Labor Defense in finding an Alabama jury incapable of handling this case, and the courts of Alabama incompetent in an hour of real need.

State Renewing Prosecution Of Assault Cases

8 Negroes Facing Trial In Decatur Today; Compromise Out

By LEROY SIMMS

DECATUR, ALA., July 5. — (AP) — Eight negroes will be arraigned in Circuit Court here tomorrow to begin a new episode in the six-year-old legal drama known to millions as the "Scottsboro case."

Announcement by the local prosecutor that the State was prepared to try all the defendants followed denial of compromise reports.

Judge W. W. Callahan, the trial judge, said he knew "nothing of any compromise." Melvin Hutson, the solicitor, intimated all the negroes will be tried after the hearing tomorrow.

"We will be ready to try them all," Hutson said, "and clear the Morgan circuit docket of the case entirely."

Charged with mass attacks on Mrs. Victoria Price and Ruby Bates aboard a freight train March 25, 1931, the negroes have been in jail since that date as their attorneys battled to save them from the electric chair.

The ninth defendant, Heywood Patterson, is under a 75-year sentence, expected to be appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which has set aside two previous death verdicts in the "Scottsboro case."

Seven of the defendants have not been before an Alabama jury since April, 1931, when the original trials were held at Scottsboro, Ala.

Hutson said he believed the negroes' trials could be completed in "two or three weeks."

Possibility that all negroes would be tried came as a slight surprise, although that would be normal court procedure. Clarence Norris, whom the defense expects to be the first to go before the jury is the only negro beside Patterson to have been tried since the first Scottsboro death verdicts were rendered.

In addition to Norris the defendants are Charlie Weems, Olen Montgomery, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Roy Wright, Andy Wright and Eugene Williams. Williams and Roy Wright were adjudged juveniles at the time of the alleged assault.

Capt. Van Buren Gilbert, of the State patrol said today he had ordered an escort for the negroes on their trip to Decatur from Birmingham, where they have been held for most of the time since their arrest. Judge Callahan declined to make public specific instructions for the negroes' transfer.

Neither Samuel S. Leibowitz, New York attorney and chief of defense counsel, nor Asst. Atty. Gen. Thomas S. Lawson, head of the prosecution staff, had arrived here this afternoon.

Lawson, at Montgomery, said he had "no compromise plan" in mind and added he had not conferred recently with defense attorneys.

State To Push Assault Trials At Scottsboro

Solicitor Gives Statement Repudiating Rumors Of Compromise

DECATUR, ALA., July 7—(AP)—Possibilty of a compromise in the Alabama "Scottsboro cases" faded tonight with an announcement by Circuit Solicitor Melvin Hutson that "the dignity of the State of Alabama" demands the nine negro defendants "should be convicted of rape or nothing."

Two of the defendants who are charged with criminal assault of two white women will be brought into court here next week. The statement by Hutson was issued in regard to reports a compromise settlement in which the negroes would plead guilty to assault not involving a sex crime, and receive jail sentences, had been proposed.

Death sentence convictions in the six-year-old cases have been reversed twice by the United States Supreme Court. One of the defendants, Heywood Patterson, is now under 75-year imprisonment sentence. The other eight defendants are expected to be tried here in the next few weeks.

Hutson's statement said:

"I know nothing about a proposition to settle these cases on a basis of assault as carried by some newspapers. As solicitor for this circuit, I would not consider any such proposition. These defendants are guilty of rape or nothing. If they are guilty of rape, they should be punished as the law directs, and if they are not guilty they should be acquitted by a jury.

"The dignity of the State of Alabama demands that they should be convicted of rape or nothing."

Lynchings—1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Alabama.

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Birmingham, Ala. News
June 13, 1937

An Appeal To Reason In The Scottsboro Case

Reprinted on this page this morning is an exceptionally able editorial from *The Montgomery Advertiser*, in which Editor Grover Cleveland Hall advocates a "decent, dignified compromise" in the Scottsboro case, in order that the state of Alabama may "throw away this body of death."

With *The Advertiser's* conclusion *The News* and *Age-Herald* are in full sympathy. The Scottsboro case has been an Old Man of the Sea to Alabama for too many years. For one reason or another, almost irreparable damage has been done the good name of the state. If state officials can find their way clear to get rid of it, for the reasons Judge Hall mentions, if for no other reasons, they will have done a fine day's work for the people of the state.

With *The Advertiser's* premise that the people of Jackson County deserve the highest commendation for their attitude and actions over the years in connection with this case thrust upon them through no fault and no desire of their own, these papers are in full sympathy. With *The Advertiser's* further premise that it was revolted from the beginning by the Communist agitation seeking to make party and political capital out of the case, without regard to the welfare of the defendants, these newspapers agree fully.

The News and *Age-Herald* probably go a good deal further in their reasoning about the desirability of an effective compromise that will remove the Scottsboro case from the dockets of our courts than does *The Advertiser*. Nevertheless, and no matter what the particular reason assigned for the conclusion, there is no question in the mind of these newspapers that the suggestion made by Editor Hall is wise and worthy of the careful consideration of all officials concerned.

The heart of *The Advertiser's* appeal is contained in the following paragraph:

"Since there is ground for reasonable doubt of the positive guilt of all of the men now in jail, since all of them, in any event, have been in prison for six years, and since they are doing more than all other citizens of Alabama combined to injure the whole people of Alabama before the world, since nothing worth while can be gained by the state in pressing its prosecutions to the bitter end, *The Advertiser* herewith takes it upon itself to suggest and urge that the state now move for a decent, dignified compromise."

By all means, let us "throw away this body of death" that has encumbered us all too long.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 27, 1937

Scottsboro

The Advertiser had not intended to say more than it has already said in an editorial urging a reasonable and decent compromise of the Scottsboro cases. Its recent editorial precipitated a lively discussion in the newspaper press of Alabama. Some of the editorial comments have heretofore been reproduced on this page.. The Advertiser had thought that nothing more should be said now, since this newspaper does not favor undue lay pressure upon oath-bound officials who in criminal cases are charged primarily with the duty of declaring the law and affirming the facts.

But because a delicate issue of public policy is raised by the Scottsboro drama, The Advertiser is sure that it will be forgiven if it adverts once more to this question. The Advertiser is moved to do so in order that it may reproduce and commend to all concerned some excerpts from the leading editorial of the current number of Alabama, "the news magazine of the Deep South", published in Birmingham by Hubert Baughn and William Huie.

The excerpts herewith presented, it seems to The Advertiser, are sober and well-considered. They follow:

The Scottsboro cases furnish a ready illustration—and a sharp test of the courage of the Governor and the Attorney General. It requires no courage and little ability to try these defendants, convict them, sentence them to death or long terms—on and on, and on and on; but it requires courage and statesmanship and a fine and discriminating loyalty to Alabama to look the facts of those cases in the face. The Attorney General can take the easier way for him—try, convict and pension them in Kilby Prison for life. But what of the State, harboring for endless years a festering doubt and a marching song for racial and revolutionary unrest?

This journal neither expresses nor holds any belief as to the actual guilt or innocence of the defendants. There has been irreconcilable conflict in the testimony. Confessions and accusations have been made and withdrawn under circumstances alike challenging belief. If the offense charged had been theft or robbery, the benefit of reasonable doubt of a charge made by a species new to Alabama, the female tramp, against a group of roving Negro bums, would in all probability have resulted in verdicts of not guilty or dismissal of the cases by the State, with warnings to get the hell out of Alabama and stay out. But the charge was rape, in which the doctrine of reasonable doubt gives way, as we all knkow, to a grim determination in the South that this offense must stop. Conviction was and is a foregone conclusion, if the Attorney General drives on.

The original death sentence of nine defendants, including mere brats, dramatized the entire incident beyond any known precedent. The Communists began the exploitation of the defense and deeply offended our people.

It is difficult to deny that this resentment has existed. Control of the defense by the Communists has long since given way to a personnel of high standing, but resentment of the original Communist attitude remains. There is, accordingly, a widespread belief throughout the United States that Alabama juries are not so much trying and convicting these Negro tramps as they are trying and convicting the Communists who exploited them, and that they continue verdicts of guilty in order to demonstrate that the Negroes were not unjustly indicted in the first instance.

There is enough justification in this belief to put our sense of justice to a rigid test. Nor is this the sole, or even the principal factor in the problem confronting the Attorney General. A much more pressing question is involved.

This Scottsboro group is asserted by competent members of the Alabama Bar with whom this case has been discussed to be a bad group of cases in which to submit to the U. S. Supreme Court the question whether our jury system continues, notwithstanding the formal reversal on that ground, systematically to exclude Negroes from the juries.. That Court has twice indicated that it does not like convictions in these cases, and it finds a way out.

Now, where does this lead us? Straight to this frank summary:

(1) Doubt, entertained beyond our borders, whether Alabama is trying these Negroes or is convicting them to avoid the charge of unjust prosecution.

(2) If convicted and given long sentences deemed harsh and coerced, a perpetual Mooney Case to placard the State for a generation.

(3) Grave and immediate doubt whether, on the appeal of Patterson, the Supreme Court of the United State as now constituted, in order to reverse another Scottsboro Case, will not again denounce our jury panels and thus make it difficult for us to try Negroes in Alabama unless, to be sure, the jury lists shall include Negroes in proportion to population. Any such result would be catastrophic. We face it. The Attorney General must determine between "bitter ending" the Scottsboro Cases or jeopardizing white juries in Alabama.

Premature publication of negotiations for disposition of the cases by reasonable sentences, taking into consideration six years' imprisonment awaiting trials, was unfortunate; but the publication was made and its substance has not been questioned. We accept as a fact that there was a near agreement.

Then why not settle the cases? The Attorney General and the Governor would further an immeasurable public interest if they rid the State of this sickening and perennial parade of human degradation—of accuser and accused.

Is the desire to play out to the grim end that sordid drama worth the chance of losing our jury system? This journal believes not.

The Advertiser, for its part, is confident that the State's higher interests in this matter are in good hands. It believes that Governor Graves, Attorney-General Carmichael and Judge Callahan can be trusted by all fair-minded Alabamians to discharge their duties in the premises fairly, wisely and honorably.

It so happens that each of these gentlemen is under oath to observe, not only the letter, but the spirit of the law. It so happens that the final disposition of these nasty cases rests with them. The Advertiser must think of what it itself would do were it in the place of any one of these three gentlemen. The Advertiser does not envy them their responsibility.

At the same time, public policy and common sense sometimes have their day in court. We are sure that no Alabamian, official or otherwise, wishes to see the letter of the law transformed into a monster. Certainly Graves, Carmichael and Callahan are of such quality that they will readily subscribe to this principle. The Advertiser, as a lay newspaper, is glad to assure them of its complete confidence that in their consideration of the Scottsboro problem they will be true to themselves and at the same time true to the higher interests of the State. In this trio there is no lyncher —and no fool.

Brewton, Ala., Standard
June 24, 1937

Too Late for Compromise

A recent suggestion by the Montgomery Advertiser that some compromise be effected in the so-called Scottsboro cases and rid the state of further publicity and expense attached to the effort to get a conviction that will stick against these negroes in the higher courts has met with approval in some quarters but has not been so favorably received in others.

The substance of The Advertiser's argument is that Alabama has already been done enough damage by these cases and, since there is some doubt of the guilt of "the boys," they should be allowed to plead guilty and receive sentences of a few years and be credited with the time they have already spent in jail.

In our opinion, the suggestion of The Advertiser comes about five years too late. If it had been made before any of the defendants had been placed on trial, before the juries which tried them had said they are guilty, and before the manner in which the cases were handled had brought condemnation of the judicial system of Alabama from the outside world—even from the Supreme Court of the United States—it would have been much more timely.

As matters now stand, to make a compromise in the cases after all of the damage has been done would be but to let Samuel Liebowitz and his tribe bluff out the entire state of Alabama and place this state in the further embarrassing position of admitting that the original convictions and sentences were not founded on law and evidence—the very argument that Liebowitz and his associates used in spreading the stench of the Scottsboro affair to the four corners of the globe. Such an admission would be a sweet morsel to the League for the Advancement of Colored People and would lend support to their ill-founded campaign to persuade the rest of the nation that, at best, justice in the South for the negro is a haphazard affair.

Regardless of the unfavorable publicity that Alabama has received from the bungling manner in which the Scottsboro cases were originally handled, the nine defendants are either guilty of rape, as charged, or they are guilty of nothing. We can not see that the somewhat questionable character of their alleged victims makes any difference in the gravity of their offense, if any offense they actually committed. If they are guilty (and several juries have found them so) they should receive such punishment as a jury might feel should be meted in each individual case. On the contrary, if they are innocent they should be found so by juries and discharged by the regular process of law.

There have already been far too many 'dog-fall' convictions in the courts of Alabama brought about by agreements between the state and the accused. In almost every such case a disrespect for law enforcement is created and as pointed out above, such an outcome would reflect no credit on the judicial system of this state.

In view of the extreme friendliness that has existed in recent years between The Advertiser and the office of the Attorney General, we wonder if that newspaper's editorial, strong as it was, was not inspired by a communicated desire on the part of Mr. Carmichael and his force to "get out from under" the Scottsboro cases, and if The Advertiser is not attempting to pave the way for that course to be followed without bringing down upon the Attorney General's department the criticism of the people of Alabama.

Lancaster, S. C[illegible]ews
June 18, 1[illegible]

THE CASE DRAGS ON

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Heywood Patterson, Scottsboro negro, who thrice has been saved from the electric chair lost his appeal to the Alabama supreme court as to a sentence of 75 years in jail which he received at his last trial. Defense attorneys have announced that they will appeal to the supreme court. In this case the laws delay is plainly seen. He will make another appeal to the United States supreme court and may even get another trial.

Had not northern money come to his rescue he would have been electrocuted long ago. Most of the poor negroes without funds get the chair if one such sentence is imposed but the Scottsboro case hangs on. If this case had happened in England the matter would have been settled quickly and finally.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
June 23, 1937

"THIS BODY OF DEATH"

The Sun has never regarded the case of the "Scottsboro Boys" as seriously as some. It has held all the time that this case was terribly over-rated and not entitled to the big noise it was creating throughout the country.

Regardless of its gravity or importance this newspaper joins the Montgomery Advertiser in asking that "this body of death" be soon washed-out and washed-up. Like the disposition of Muscle Shoals the people of this state are about fed-up on this tripe.

Savannah, Ga. Times
June 25, 1937

STILL GOING STRONG

An old time favorite melodrama will be revived in Alabama next month when the Scottsboro Boys go on trial again. The crime charged against them—rape—was committed six years ago, but has been about lost sight of in the welter of perjury, racial antipathy, professional liberalism, convictions, appeals, new trials and retrials. Only this week, the Alabama Supreme Court upheld the latest conviction of one of the boys, but promptly an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States was announced by defense counsel Leibowitz.

And in Wise, Virginia, Edith Maxwell, the "curfew girl" twice found guilty of having crowned her father with a "slipper" or other blunt implement, has received the cheering news that the State Supreme Court has agreed to review her second conviction. Edith is thus assured of at least a few more months of liberty.

We were about to say that if somebody could just arrange for Tom Mooney's case to be reopened we would have three serial causes celebres going in full blast at the same time—when, lo and behold! the mail brought an announcement from the Tom Mooney Defense Committee that a Senate subcommittee has been appointed to hold hearings on a resolution calling upon the Governor of California to grant Tom an unconditional pardon.

Poor Sacco and Vanzetti. They will never know what they missed by having been executed and put out of the marathon a mere six years after their conviction. — The Charlotte News.

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Clarkesville, Tenn., Leaf-Chronicle
June 16, 1937

The Scottsboro Case Again

Once again the "Scottsboro case" is headed for the United States Supreme Court. A 75-year sentence of Heywood Patterson, Negro, in connection with an alleged assault he and a group of other Negroes made on a white woman back in 1931 will be appealed to the High Tribunal and may be returned for a fifth trial.

Many questionable things have entered into this notorious case. There have been broad hints of perjury, not to mention undue prejudice. Unless the State of Alabama disposes of the whole case in some measure that is upheld by the Supreme Court, justice will ultimately suffer. Already it has cast reflections upon Alabama and the South and every time the case is remanded for trial and is re-heard it agitates public opinion in the vicinity in which the alleged crime occurred.

The sooner Alabama disposes of and forgets the Scottsboro case the better it will be for the state and for the South.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
June 15, 1937

The Scottsboro Cases

More than a year ago The Commercial Appeal, in a spirit of utter frankness, urged that the state of Alabama owed it to the south to make some reasonable and speedy disposition of the Scottsboro cases.

The Supreme Court of the United States had just reversed the judgment of the Alabama courts in a far-reaching opinion which went far towards threatening the common practice of excluding negroes from southern juries. Competent lawyers saw in the opinion a broad intimation that the severe punishment the state of Alabama sought would not be permitted to stand. This being true, the assumption was proper that regardless of the merits of the cases, further efforts to push them would only serve to bait the higher courts and at the same time keep alive an agitation that was detrimental to the best interests of the people of Alabama and of the south.

It is refreshing to observe that the Birmingham News has joined with the Montgomery Advertiser in advocating that these cases be compromised. The defendants have been in jail for six years, the case has been to the Supreme Court of the United States twice, and only one of the six is under any sort of sentence now. Recalling that it has sided with the state and the prosecution, the Advertiser admits that "Scottsboro has injured Alabama incalculably." It adds, "let us throw away this body of death that has encumbered us all so long."

The News is even more emphatic. Pointing out that Scottsboro has been an Old Man of the Sea, the News calls upon the state to move for a decent, dignified compromise, concluding that if state officials can find their way to bring about a compromise, "they will have done a fine day's work for the people of the state."

It is to be hoped that this counsel will prevail. Not only would it be a relief to the people of Alabama, but it would be a good thing for the south as a whole.

Scottsboro

January 37
Advertiser
Montgomery Ala

The Advertiser had not inteded to say more than it has already said in an editorial urging a reasonable and decent compromise of the Scottsboro cases. Its recent editorial precipitated a lively discussion in the newspaper press of Alabama. Some of the editorial comments have heretofore been reproduced on this page. The Advertiser had thought that nothing more should be said now, since this newspaper does not favor undue law [illegible] oath-bound officials who in criminal cases are charged primarily with the duty of declaring the law and affirming the facts.

But because a delicate issue of public policy is raised by the Scottsboro drama, The Advertiser is sure that it will be forgiven if it adverts once more to this question. The Advertiser is moved to do so in order that it may reproduce and commend to all concerned some excerpts from the leading editorial of the current number of Alabama, "the news magazine of the Deep South", published in Birmingham by Hubert Baughn and William Huie.

The excerpts herewith presented, it seems to The Advertiser, are sober and well-considered. They follow:

The Scottsboro cases furnish a ready illustration—and a sharp test of the courage of the Governor and the Attorney General. It requires no courage and little ability to try these defendants, convict them, sentence them to death or long terms—on and on, and on and on; but it requires courage and statesmanship and a fine and discriminating loyalty to Alabama to look the facts of those cases in the face. The Attorney General can take the easier way for him—try, convict and pension them in Kilby Prison for life. But what of the State, harboring for endless years a festering doubt and a marching song for racial and revolutionary unrest?

This journal neither expresses nor holds any belief as to the actual guilt or innocence of the defendants. There has been irreconcilable conflict in the testimony. Confessions and accusations have been made and withdrawn under circumstances alike challenging belief. If the offense charged had been theft or robbery, the benefit of reasonable doubt of a charge made by a species new to Alabama, the female tramp, against a group of roving Negro bums, would in all probability have resulted in verdicts of not guilty or dismissal of the cases by the State, with warnings to get the hell out of Alabama and stay out. But the charge was rape, in which the doctrine of reasonable doubt gives way, as we all knkow, to a grim determination in the South that this offense must stop. Conviction was and is a foregone conclusion, if the Attorney General drives on.

The original death sentence of nine defendants, including mere brats, dramatized the entire incident beyond any known precedent. The Communists began the exploitation of the defense and deeply offended our people.

It is difficult to deny that this resentment has existed. Control of the defense by the Communists has long since given way to a personnel of high standing, but resentment of the original Communist attitude remains. There is, accordingly, a widespread belief throughout the United States that Alabama juries are not so much trying and convicting these Negro tramps as they are trying and convicting the Communists who exploited them, and that they continue verdicts of guilty in order to demonstrate that the Negroes were not unjustly indicted in the first instance.

There is enough justification in this belief to put our sense of justice to a rigid test. Nor is this the sole, or even the principal factor in the problem confronting the Attorney General. A much more pressing question is involved.

This Scottsboro group is asserted by competent members of the Alabama Bar with whom this case has been discussed to be a bad group of cases in which to submit to the U. S. Supreme Court the question whether our jury system continues, notwithstanding the formal reversal on that ground, systematically to exclude Negroes from the juries.. That Court has twice indicated that it does not like convictions in these cases, and it finds a way out.

Now, where does this lead us? Straight to this frank summary:

(1) Doubt, entertained beyond our borders, whether Alabama is trying these Negroes or is convicting them to avoid the charge of unjust prosecution.

(2) If convicted and given long sentences deemed harsh and coerced, a perpetual Mooney Case to placard the State for a generation.

(3) Grave and immediate doubt whether, on the appeal of Patterson, the Supreme Court of the United State as now constituted, in order to reverse another Scottsboro Case, will not again denounce our jury panels and thus make it difficult for us to try Negroes in Alabama unless, to be sure, the jury lists shall include Negroes in proportion to population. Any such result would be catastrophic. We face it. The Attorney General must determine between "bitter ending" the Scottsboro Cases or jeopardizing white juries in Alabama.

Premature publication of negotiations for disposition of the cases by reasonable sentences, taking into consideration six years' imprisonment awaiting trials, was unfortunate; but the publication was made and its substance has not been questioned. We accept as a fact that there was a near agreement.

Then why not settle the cases? The Attorney General and the Governor would further an immeasurable public interest if they rid the State of this sickening and perennial parade of human degradation—of accuser and accused.

Is the desire to play out to the grim end that sordid drama worth the chance of losing our jury system? This journal believes not.

National Scottsboro Week Opens July 1

NEW YORK, June 20.—(AP)—The Scottsboro Defense Committee tonight set July 1 to 6 as "national Scottsboro week" during which persons [illegible] of nine negro youths held in Alabama on charges of criminal attack will protest the prisoners' treatment.

Eight of the nine await third trials. One was given a 75-year sentence upheld by the State's highest court.

The Advertiser, for its part, is confident that the State's higher interests in this matter are in good hands. It believes that Governor Graves, Attorney-General Carmichael and Judge Callahan can be trusted by all fair-minded Alabamians to discharge their duties in the premises fairly, wisely and honorably.

It so happens that each of these gentlemen is under oath to observe, not only the letter, but the spirit of the law. It so happens that the final disposition of these nasty cases rests with them. The Advertiser must think of what it itself would do were it in the place of any one of these three gentlemen. The Advertiser does not envy them their responsibility.

At the same time, public policy and common sense sometimes have their day in court. We are sure that no Alabamian, official or otherwise, wishes to see the letter of the law transformed into a monster. Certainly Graves, Carmichael and Callahan are of such quality that they will readily subscribe to this principle. The Advertiser, as a lay newspaper, is glad to assure them of its complete confidence that in their consideration of the Scottsboro problem they will be true to themselves and at the same time true to the higher interests of the State. In this trio there is no lyncher —and no fool.

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
June 15, 1937

VINDICATED

Elsewhere on this page will be found an editorial from the Montgomery Advertiser of the past Friday, in which Editor Grover Hall advocates compromise of the Scottsboro attack cases, in order to rid the state of an incubus that has done more to sully her fair name than any other development in recent history.

This editorial was strongly endorsed in the Sunday editions of the Birmingham News and the Huntsville Times, both of which agreed that there is more to be gained by compromise than there is by "exacting the final pound of flesh."

It is a pleasurable duty for the Times-Journal to reproduce this editorial, as it offers full vindication and endorsement of the far-seeing judgment of the late F. T. Raiford, publisher of the Times-Journal, which prompted his attitude toward the entire early course of the litigation.

In his argument, Mr. Hall uses almost the exact words of a Times-Journal editorial of June 16, 1931, in which Mr. Raiford declared "only God knows" the guilt or innocence of the defendants.

We quote Mr. Raiford's editorial as follows: "As before stated in these columns we are unable to say if the immutable standards of right and wrong were effective in determining the guilt or innocence of the accused in the Scottsboro trial, or whether the scales were made to vibrate by the extraneous influences against the unfortunate defendants. Whether the eight negroes are guilty of the crimes alleged, only God knows, but we do know the environment in which they were subjected to the ordeal of life or death left much to be desired."

In an editorial appearing on Friday, March 25, 1932, Mr. Raiford predicted the storm of abuse that the state was to suffer because of the conditions under which the trials were conducted, and dared the wrath of fiery-tempered Alabamians by predicting the overthrow by the Supreme Court at Washington of the ruling by the Alabama Supreme justices affirming the death sentences in the case.

This prediction was made without equivocation, as follows:

"The action of the Alabama Supreme Court in affirming the sentences of seven out of eight of the Scottsboro negroes will be denounced as the culmination of miscarriage in many parts of the world. The storm of protest and objurgation will not be the outgrowth of a conviction that the negroes are innocent so much as that they did not have a fair and impartial trial. The trial took place under the menace of armed militia and frowning machine guns, with public feeling running high and a milling mob of thousands on the outside of the courtroom, whose emotions were whipped into a frenzy by a brass band and fervid oratory. A court proceeding of even-handed justice could not have taken place in such a hostile environment. Appeal will be taken to the United State Supreme Court on the grounds that the constitutional guarantee of a fair and impartial trial to all accused persons was violated and if the high court should sustain its own decision given in a similar case appealed from Arkansas, the cases will be remanded to the Alabama courts for retrial."

Thus it becomes apparent that Mr. Hall takes a position that is directly in line with the Times-Journal policy established by Mr. Raiford toward the Scottsboro cases and the endorsement of this paper of the suggestion of compromise is a matter that requires no deliberation.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
June 30, 1937

Better Late Than Never

Another chapter in the now famous Scottsboro trials will begin on July 6 when eight Negro men walk into a court room and stage for the fourth time a legal fight for life and freedom.

More than $50,000 has been spent by the State of Alabama in an effort to convict the defendants—all of whom are accused of assaulting two white women hoboes aboard a freight train in 1931.

Of the nine men, one has been sentenced to 75 years in prison, and his final appeal was last month denied by the supreme court of the southern state.

But the other eight have three times been convicted and sentenced to death; and three times their sentences have been reversed—twice by the United States Supreme Court and once by an Alabama trial judge.

The long story has revolved, of course, around the time-worn racial plot. Cries of persecution from Northern agitators resulted in the retention of Samuel Leibowitz as defense counsel. Leibowitz, known as one of the shrewdest of the nation's criminal lawyers, will defend the mad sculptor, Robert Irwin, when he faces trial this summer for the triple-slaying on Beekman Hill.

Sources close to both prosecution and defense in the Scottsboro cases have admitted that negotiations have been under way for sometime to end the long litigation in the trials.

The whole affair should be ended once and for all. Regardless of final disposition, both defense and prosecution should agree that the next chapter should be the last one in the book. The State of Alabama has suffered irreparable damage in the flood of undesirable publicity that has evolved from the trials.

And the cause of justice has not been helped in the slightest degree. It is well and good to make sure that defendants are given every possible chance under the law to prove their innocence, but when cases drop into an endless rut and like Tennyson's brook tend to go "on and on forever," it is high time for final action.

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'SCOTTSBORO' NEGROES WILL PLEAD GUILTY

Post 5-22-37

—To Felonious Assault, But Not To Criminal Attack, It Is Learned

'NO TRIALS NECESSARY'

If Term Is Retroactive, They May Go Free Immediately

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MONTGOMERY, May 22.—Alabama's notorious Scottsboro attack cases—which have dragged through state and Federal courts for more than six years—will end in a compromise next Fall between defense and prosecution, with the nine Negroes pleading guilty to felonious assault but not to criminal attack, the United Press was told today.

A high state official close to the prosecution stated that conferences tending positively in this direction have been under way alternately in New York and Alabama for several months, with the result that an agreement to conclude the cases without further trials is assured.

This official, who asked that his name be withheld, said the plan provides for the Negroes to plead guilty to felonious assault against Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, white women hoboes, on a freight train in Jackson County on March 24, 1931.

May Go Free

The state in turn is expected to mete out sentences which will be retroactive or satisfied by the six years of close confinement which the Negroes already have undergone, allowing them to go free.

Liberal and radical elements which have come to the Negroes' defense still contend the Negroes were not guilty of attacking the girls, as both charged at first. One of the girls, Ruby Bates, has since testified the charge was unfounded.

The United Press' informant stated that the first move in the proposed compromise will be made next Thursday when a hearing on the appeal of one of the Negroes, Heywood Patterson, is scheduled before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Has Been Costly

At that time, he said, attorneys for both sides will ask that the hearing be continued until October, the beginning of the court's Fall term—thus clearing the way for more compromise discussions.

Patterson is the only one of the nine Negroes tried under an indictment returned by a grand jury that included a member of his own race, in accordance with an order by the United States Supreme Court.

His 75-year sentence was the first "break" in the case. Death sentences had been imposed upon all the Negroes in state courts, only to be reversed by higher tribunals, including the U. S. Supreme Court.

Increasing pressure is being brought to settle the entire Scottsboro affair as soon as possible, reliable sources said.

Jackson County has been embarassed for three years because of the expense of the trials. They have cost more than $50,000 so far.

SCOTTSBORO APPEAL HEARING POSTPONED

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 20. (AP)—The Alabama supreme court postponed today for one week argument on the appeal of Haywood Patterson, negro "Scottsboro case" defendant, under a 75-year sentence on conviction of rape.

The postponement of arguments until next Thursday was asked by the state, due to the death this week of Lieutenant Governor Knight, state's special prosecutor in the internationally known case.

SCOTTSBORO CASE TRIAL DAY FIXED

5-26-37

Talk of Compromise Settlement of Celebrated Affair Is Being Revived

DECATUR, Ala., May 25 (AP)—Another revival of an old court drama was heralded today as Judge W. W. Callahan set July 6 for resumption of trials in the "Scottsboro" case.

Nine Negroes are accused of a mass attack of two white girls.

The call for new trials in Morgan county circuit court, in mid-summer, overshadowed quiet efforts underway for months for an agreement for disposal of the six-year-old cases, without further trials.

One agreement proposal, in discussion by members of the Alabama bar and other prominent persons, was that the three youngest of the nine Negroes be discharged, with the others pleading guilty to assault not involving a sex crime, the sentences to be agreed upon.

While nine Negroes are accused of the attacks, only eight were ordered brought here for arraignment. The ninth, Heywood Patterson, is under sentence of 75 years imprisonment, imposed after his fourth conviction here in January, 1936.

Leibowitz is Optimistic

After Judge Callahan issued the trial order in Morgan county circuit court at Decatur, Ala., today, Samuel Leibowitz, chief of the defense counsel, in New York called for a showdown compromise on the fate of the boys.

"I honestly believe that by now the people of Alabama are beginning to realize that an injustice will be done if these Negroes are railroaded," Leibowitz said.

"The Scottsboro committee, including educators and churchmen and leaders of the Alabama state bar, feels that the case should be closed once and for all—that pursuing these Negro boys on the evidence of a white girl, Victoria Price, after her hobo companion, Ruby Bates, recanted her charges and admitted it was all a frame-up, is a deep injustice. It is time for a showdown."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 20, 1937

For stating that we think the evidence shows the Scottsboro Negroes not guilty, Mr. R. L. Reynolds, of Birmingham, lets us have his opinion of us. His letter, too long to be reproduced here, ends with the statistical statement that "if it were possible for you to weigh the sentiment in this state and see how you completely stand alone in your viewpoint . . . I believe it would be a revelation to you. I know that you have completely destroyed whatever usefulness your column might have had to the people of this state. I base this on a cross-section of people with whom I come in contact.

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
May 27, 1937

SCOTTSBORO CASE AGAIN

Word comes from Decatur, Alabama, that resumption of trials of the Negro defendants in the internationally known "Scottsboro Case" has been ordered for July 6 by a judge in the county circuit court, and those who have followed this almost comedy of errors during the years is has been pending wonder what will come next.

Eight of the nine Negroes charged with attacking two white women aboard a freight train — of all places — will be arraigned. The ninth got 75 years last year and has an appeal before the Alabama supreme court. Those who will go on trial in July are now being held in jail at Birmingham.

As we ponder over this long trial, the question regarding the number of lynchings or other cases of violence that may be laid to this delay of justice arises to haunt us. And by justice we do not mean conviction but delay in action. Twice the Negroes have been convicted by Alabama courts and twice these convictions have been reversed by the United States supreme court.

Witnesses have arisen and vanished since those nine darkies first were placed on trial for their lives for attacking those two white women, whose characters have not been portrayed in a light that was any too brilliant. The state has expended thousands of dollars of public, tax-payers' money in this battle which was heightened by the appearance of northern legal talent and money, which was put into use in behalf of the defendants.

We have serious doubt that a jury could be found anywhere in Alabama unprejudiced enough to deliberate these cases. We also doubt that there exists any agency for social uplift, etc., which also has not become so prejudiced that its influence would turn public opinion from the channels of clarity.

The "Scottsboro Case" has become as complicated as the Mooney Case and regardless of the outcome cannot be terminated satisfactorily for all concerned. If the Negroes go free, then they will have just cause for feeling that they have been terribly wronged by the state and if they are convicted, then it will mean no feather in the cap of American justice for having delayed so long.

LIEUT.-GOV. THOMAS E. KNIGHT

WHILE THE AGE does not rejoice in anyone's misfortune, there are times when we can agree with William James, the great psychologist, when he said that "death is the greatest promoter of progress." In the passing of Thomas E. Knight, Lieut. Governor of Alabama, we think that there is much better chance of settling the case against the nine Negro youths falsely accused of rape at Scottsboro, Ala. over five years ago.

The late Mr. Knight was prosecuting attorney when this case came to trial, and when it was shown that the first hearing had been rushed and all nine sentenced to die in one mass trial that lasted only a few hours, there was insistent and loud protest by fairminded citizens in all parts of the country. The International Labor Defense, jumped into the case, an appeal was taken and a new trial ordered. The defense, headed by Samuel Leibowitz, scored a sensation when it put Ruby Bates, one of the complainants and alleged victims of the rape, on the witness stand and had her repudiate her original testimony.

This repudiation should have caused even the Prosecuting Attorney to pause and realize that there might be a grave miscarriage of justice if these Negroes were convicted under the circumstances. But Mr. Knight seemed more determined than ever to secure a conviction and spurned all efforts of "outsiders" to effect a compromise. The prisoners have had three trials, and all except Heyward Patterson are still awaiting further trial. The vindictiveness of the late Prosecutor (who rose to the second highest office in the state on the fame he got out of this case) was alone responsible for this disgraceful delay in the settling of this case.

In his death we feel that at least the principals in the Scottsboro case will have a better chance for quick and more impartial justice. Although a comparatively young man, he clung to the old traditions of the South in his attitude toward both the Negro and the Jew. He was especially resentful to Attorney Leibowitz for forcing the State of Alabama to put Negroes on jury duty in that state. Prejudice dies hard, but only through the passing of this bitter racial prejudice and those who promote it, can there be a brighter day for the two races of the South and for the country as a whole.

The Digest - -

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

Mr. Knight Ascends

We cannot help but speculate on what kind of a reception was given Thomas E. Knight Jr., Lieutenant Governor of Alabama, on his sudden ascension last week. Just 39 years old, and rapidly forging ahead on what to all intents and purposes was marked as a long and brilliant career, Mr. Knight was abruptly called to account and taken home to his Father.

Floyd J. Calvin

It is my impression that white people, and particularly American officialdom, are more often moved by the uncertainty of the hereafter, in their civil relations with their colored fellow citizens, than by any other factor. After all, there are many places in the Bible where it is clearly indicated that the meek, humble poor and defenseless will be given a handsome reward hereafter and that the haughty, arrogant, cruel and merciless will, too, get their just desserts, which it is hinted broadly may not be so good.

White people wrote the Bible—or at least they take credit for it — and it is sometimes charged that they purposely held out hope for the subject peoples, or individuals, in the hereafter, to lighten their earthly load while the overlords are lolling at ease through their ingenious system of exploitation. But, ever since Pilate allowed Christ to be crucified, even though by default, officialdom has been somewhat wary of being too dogmatic in specific cases.

But not so Mr. Knight. He fought the Scottsboro boys, tooth and nail, to the last, in all probability with his eye on the Governorship of Alabama, and later a seat in the U. S. Senate. As it turned out, he goes to his grave, according to Prof. Pitkin, before his life began.

Leibowitz to Fight Scottsboro Decision

Immediately upon the heels of the upholding of the seventy-five-year prison sentence of Heywood Patterson, Scottsboro defendant, by the Alabama Supreme Court, Monday, The Amsterdam News established contact with Samuel Leibowitz, local attorney defending the nine boys, who issued the following statement to this paper:

"I have just learned that the Alabama Supreme Court has upheld the conviction of Haywood Patterson, one of the nine boys in the Scottsboro case.

"The fourteen million members of the colored race in America need have no fear that the fight to get justice for Patterson and his eight companions will

be lessened one single iota by the Alabama court's decision.

"Unless the cases are disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the defense, Patterson's case will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States for the third time. This establishes a new record in a criminal case for appeals to the highest court of the land in Washington. Twice before the Supreme Court has reversed convictions of the Scottsboro boys and has thrown the case back into the laps of the Alabama authorities. We hope that a third trip will be unnecessary, but in the event that we are forced to take those steps, we are confident that the Supreme Court will once and for all end this relentless pursuit of these nine innocent defendants.

"As for myself, I am ready to give all within me, as I have in the past, to the end that the boys be given their freedom, and that a real blow be struck at race hatred and bigotry.

"There is no place in this land for Scottsboro cases.

Samuel S Leibowitz

June 15, 1937."

Samuel Leibowitz.

Alabama

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Legal Punishment for Rape

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Watchtower

By ROY WILKINS

(Ed. Note: The publishers do not necessarily subscribe to the opinions expressed in this column.)

IN HIS CHARGE to the jury in the trial of Clarence Norris, one of the Scottsboro defendants, Judge William Washington (Speed) Callahan made a statement which is legally technically correct and which has far more truth in it than Alabama will admit. Said the judge:

"This case is not Victoria Price against Clarence Norris, but the State of Alabama against Clarence Norris."

Roy Wilkins.

The judge went on to explain that the alleged crime was a violation of state law, that, whereas the alleged rape had been committed upon the person of Victoria Price it had been committed against the statutes of Alabama, that Victoria Price was merely an instrument, a witness, brought in by the state to prove that its laws had been violated by Clarence Norris.

This portion of the judge's statement goes far deeper than the mere legal designation. All along, from the very beginning, this case has been the State of Alabama vs. nine Negro youths. From March 25, 1931, to this day the great state of Alabama has hounded and persecuted these boys. For what? For allegedly raping two white hobo prostitutes? Of course not! For being black. The "crime" for which Alabama has spent a fortune trying to take the lives of these defendants is the color of their skins.

Everyone who knew Alabama knew from the first day that this was so, but for those who did not know, the record of the past six and one-half years has more than proved the point. In what other place in this country of ours (except, perhaps, Mississippi) would the parrot-like fairy tale of Victoria Price be accepted as creditable in a court of law? In what other section would the host of discrepancies be swept aside as nothing? In what other locality would medical testimony, admitted to the record by both sides, be totally disregarded—medical testimony in a case where a woman claims to have been criminally assaulted by six or eight men in succession?

Fairness of Horton Was Bright Spot

The strongest point for these boys and against the State of Alabama was not provided by the reversals of one of the cases by the United States Supreme Court, as important as those reversals were. The clinching point was furnished by the opinion delivered by Judge James E. Horton of the Morgan County Circuit Court, who heard the second trial of Heywood Patterson and granted the motion of his attorneys for a new trial. Judge Horton, in setting aside the conviction of Patterson stated that the story of Victoria Price was improbable on its face and not to be believed, that other evidence was contrary to her story, that her story was uncorroborated, and that the evidence "greatly preponderates in favor of the defendant."

For this honest statement Judge Horton sacrificed his political career; he was not elected a judge again by the white voters of Alabama. There are many heroes in this long Scottsboro case, and Judge Horton takes his place in the forefront. He is too good a judge for Alabama and should be on the Federal bench.

But the point is that Judge Horton's calm analysis of the testimony in this case and his courageous conclusion prove beyond doubt that Alabama is prosecuting these boys because they are black; for, as Judge Horton showed, there is no case against them for raping Victoria Price and, therefore, no case against them for violating the statutes of Alabama. So the crime must be their color.

Judge Callahan has given further weight to the belief that this case is the State of Alabama vs. nine COLORED defendants by his charges to the jury. On two occasions, now, he has told the jury that it may assume that in cases involving white women and Negro men that there was no consent and therefore, if an act was committed, it must have been rape. Callahan has also advised that the jury need not necessarily believe anything else Victoria Price might have said if it believes that part of her story about the rape. In other words, she might tell the most fanciful tale under the sun, but if, in her recital, she said she was raped by one of the defendants, that part can be believed even if the jury could not believe the rest. The jury was told, also, that her story needed no corroboration; if she said a Negro attacked her and the jury believed her, that was sufficient to bring in a guilty verdict.

Color of Principals Becomes Important

All this talk by Judge Callahan means only one thing: color. If all the persons concerned in this case had been white or black it would have been tossed out of court in ten minutes. If the woman had been black and the men white it never would have reached court, because none of the zealous upholders of Alabama's laws against rape would have lifted foot off a desk even to hear a complaint.

So it is color, and for a very good reason. Alabama is afraid. Fear drives her and some of her sister Southern states to these extremes. Alabama is afraid of Negroes. She is afraid that if she for one moment takes her foot off the necks of black people they may advance and show up the whites for the incompetents they have proved themselves to be.

White Alabamans and the professional crusading white Southerners tell the world they have a "peculiar problem" and they bemoan the fact that the world does not seem to appreciate their situation. But you can be sure that when a group, or a whole section, feels called upon to use segregation, discrimination, disfranchisement, economic slavery, the Scottsboro brand of justice, and lynching to solve its "peculiar problem" that the problem is not the Negro, but the Southern whites.

They are afraid—fearfully afraid—that without these methods of control they would not be able to maintain their hysterically asserted superiority. And it must be remembered that, so far, the only record of their superiority is contained in their monotonous repetition of the mere statement.

Fearful Majority Is Organized

Yes, Judge Callahan is as right as rain: the Scottsboro case is the State of Alabama vs. Clarence Norris—and all other Negroes. It is the organized fearful majority against an oppressed minority, desperately determined to prove that, right or wrong, white is always right. The clamor about Northern lawyers and outside agitators has only served to embellish the picture. The essential setting has never changed from 1931 to 1937.

There is hope for a change, however, even if it is based on nothing more than the certain knowledge that things as they are simply cannot go on forever. It is unthinkable that stupidity and ignorance and intolerance and brutality shall be always in the saddle. This is the challenge that the Scottsboro case has for the world's millions who have been shocked and outraged at the conduct of a sovereign state in a civilized nation in the twentieth century.

Victoria Price, said Judge Callahan, is merely a witness for the state. And in the same manner Clarence Norris and his companions are but symbols for the defense, symbols that call for the carrying on of an endless battle, not only for the freedom of these nine boys, but against the monstrous prostitution by the prosecution of all the ideals of human liberty.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 16, 1937

Conviction at Scottsboro

ONCE more a Scottsboro defendant has been convicted and sentenced to the electric chair, and once more an appeal will be taken to the United States Supreme Court. Convictions of the other defendants who are to be tried in the coming weeks may be expected.

CLARENCE NORRIS, the Negro who was convicted yesterday, was given the maximum penalty, despite glaring discrepancies in the story told by VICTORIA PRICE, the chief prosecution witness, one of the two white women he and the other defendants are alleged to have attacked. RUBY BATES, the other white woman, did not appear as a witness. She long ago repudiated MRS. PRICE'S story, saying that it was untrue, and that neither of them was attacked by the Negroes.

At the trial which has just concluded, it was brought out, among other things, that whereas VICTORIA PRICE said she was beaten black and blue, rapped on the head with a pistol butt, smashed in the nose with a fist, and lacerated, DR. R. R. BRIDGES, Jackson County physician, examined her two hours after the attack was supposed to have taken place, and found no trace of any of these wounds.

JUDGE JAMES E. HORTON, who set aside one of the convictions in 1933, and was defeated for re-election to the bench in consequence, reviewed the testimony of VICTORIA PRICE in great detail in that famous opinion, and showed to the satisfaction of any unbiased person that the Scottsboro defendants are innocent.

Our hope is that the Supreme Court of the United States will reverse the verdict once more, and force the Alabama authorities to go through with another trial, if they are still unwilling to drop these trumped up cases. If this keeps up long enough, perhaps they will have to be reasonable, in order to keep from bankrupting Morgan County, where the recent trials have been held. Jackson County, in which Scottsboro is situated, is said to have been bankrupted years ago by the $50,000 expense of the earlier cases.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 18, 1937

The Scottsboro Case

Clarence Norris, one of the defendants in the noted Scottsboro case, was convicted last week and the jury fixed the death penalty. This is the third time a jury has returned such a sentence against Norris. His case has been appealed twice and remanded for trial. His leading attorney is Samuel Leibowitz, New York criminal lawyer who has the reputation of having represented scores of defendants in homicide cases without one execution. Mr. Leibowitz was not pleased with the third verdict against Norris and declared that he would "appeal the sentence to hell and back." The resourcefulness of Mr. Leibowitz is shown by his discovery of this formerly unknown court of appeals.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
July 17, 1937

The first verdict in the new trials of the notorious Scottsboro cases has resulted in conviction and recommendation of the death sentence. Further complications are expected as a result thereof. The cases have been hanging fire for about six years, and this, we believe, is the third series of trials that the young Negroes have undergone. Each trial has resulted in conviction. Heywood Patterson, one of the key defendants, was convicted last year and sentenced to 75 years. Clarence Norris, latest defendant to be tried, will, in accordance with the jury's verdict, be sentenced to execution. There of course will be an appeal. If the lower court's verdict is sustained ultimately, it probably would not be out of order for the Alabama governor to commute the sentence to 75 years. Justice would seem to demand that all the defendants who are convicted of the same heinous offense should pay a like penalty.

Roanoke, Va., World News
July 17, 1937

Scottsboro History

Two white women, taken from a freight train near Paint Rock, Ala., in 1931, told police that they had been attacked by a group of Negroes while en route from Chattanooga, Tenn. The famous "Scottsboro case" followed. Trials of the Negroes involved were resumed this week at Decatur, Ala.

The Supreme Court has set aside death sentences twice. It held once that the Negroes had been without benefit of adequate counsel. It ruled later that they had been deprived of constitutional rights by "systematic exclusion" of Negroes from juries.

Alabama and several other southern states have since revised jury laws. Chief defense counsel this time is Samuel Leibowitz, star New York criminal lawyer.

Scottsboro Negro Arrives At Kilby

Brought to Kilby Prison yesterday from Birmingham to be treated for an infection that has developed in one of his legs, Heywood Patterson, negro Scottsboro Case defendant, convicted of participating in a mass attack on two young white women near Scottsboro, in March, 1931, and sentenced to 75 years in the penitentiary —was temporarily lodged in a detention cell where he was made comfortable, and today will be transferred to the prison hospital. Following the transfer, prison physicians said, Patterson will be given a thorough examination and a definite diagnosis made of the infection.

Transfer of Patterson from the Jefferson County jail to Kilby, was on order of Circuit Judge W. W. Callahan of Decatur, who presided at Patterson's last trial and is now presiding at retrial of Patterson's co-defendants in the same case. Patterson is suffering from an infection of the leg bone, suspected, it was learned, of being tuberculosis of the bone, and his removal to the prison hospital here was on recommendation to Judge Callahan by Dr. J. A. Collins, county jail physician at Birmingham.

According to Dr. Collins, the diseased condition of Patterson's leg is due to an old injury that had apparently occurred prior to his arrest in 1931, and it appeared to him that one operation had already been performed on the infected limb.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 25, 1937

Mr. Leibowitz Blows Off

IF, as Mr. Samuel Leibowitz charges, the verdict against the Scottsboro boys was stacked even before their trials began, why did he come down there?

That question must have come to the minds of thousands when Mr. Leibowitz, in an adjectival frenzy, charged this state with "sanctimonious hypocrisy" and predicted that his client in the latest case, Charlie Weems, would be convicted. Mr. Leibowitz continued to assure us that he didn't expect an acquittal in any of the cases, and that he feels quite certain that when the solicitor asks for a 50-year sentence, the jury will make it 99 years.

This, of course, is nothing more than an admission on the part of Mr. Leibowitz himself that his chief aim in the Scottsboro case has been the publicity he can get out of it. The word publicity is too mild; notoriety is better.

If he had had the interest of the Scottsboro negroes at heart, and really wished for them to be set free, he would not have been quite so liberal with his legal services. He himself argues that point when he says that the state of New York, and not the negro Charlie Weems, is on trial. In other words, Mr. Leibowitz breaks down with the confession that he is a liability, not an asset, to the negroes, but the notoriety apparently is so valuable to him that he cannot afford to lose it—including the notoriety which he will gain by his latest tirade against the "sanctimonious hypocrisy" of Alabama. His most recent outburst is the best accredited to him since his celebrated description of an Alabama jury as "those creatures, those bigots, whose mouths are slits in their faces, whose eyes pop out at you like frogs, whose chins drip tobacco juice, bewhiskered and filthy."

If Mr. Leibowitz is disgusted with the whole affair, he is not by himself. The people of Alabama are exceedingly tired of seeing this case used as a sounding board for political bombast in the East, and as a money-raising, tear-jerker for radical elements throughout the world. We are not prepared, however, to yield our courts and principles to the whims of a professional publicity-hound, no matter how much "sanctimonious hypocrisy" he finds in us.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 25, 1937

THE PASSING OF A PLAGUE

At the time of the "Scottsboro" attack one of the defendants, the State of Alabama now says, was 12 years old and another 13, one was too ill, in the opinion of a physician, to have participated in the attack, another was "practically blind".

The man who was too ill to participate in the crime and the man who was "practically blind" have told "plausible stories" consistently in all of their trials. For these reasons the State yesterday dropped its prosecution of these four and had them escorted to the Tennessee line with Samuel Leibowitz and his associates trailing behind. Tennessee is welcome to all such plunder, so far as Alabama is concerned.

Thus the first break in the long and disastrous deadlock occurs with dramatic swiftness and utter finality. Heaven be praised!

What next? The Advertiser is not privy to the plans of the State with reference to the five remaining defendants, one of whom, Norris, is under death sentence, but the Associated Press quotes an unnamed person as predicting that Norris will be granted executive clemency and that the appeals in other cases will be dropped. Ozie Powell, who in an attempt to escape the custody of officers, stabbed a deputy sheriff, pleaded guilty to an assault charge and was sentenced to 20 years. The rape charge against him was erased.

The State could abandon its remaining cases, or it could ask for the indictment of the principals upon charges of simple assault without reference to rape, which is a capital offense. The principals could then be tried for assault and if convicted given nominal sentences.

The Advertiser is confident that Governor Graves will not let the death sentence against Clarence Norris stand. The Governor can commute a death sentence to a prison term, but cannot reduce a prison sentence, except by parole or pardon.

The Advertiser feels sure that the Governor will in the end put Clarence Norris in the same position before the law as those who received lesser sentences for the same offense face. That would be fair and sensible.

The Attorney-General and his colleagues did a good day's work yesterday and they deserve the thanks of the people of Alabama. But there is other work to be done in the same vineyard of hog weeds, dog fennels and poison ivy. In the sweat of our faces shall we live, so, let us labor mightily in our appointed vineyard! For as matters stand, less than half of "this body of death," of which we have spoken aforetime, has been thrown away!

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Light Dawns on Alabama

Manchester Guardian Weekly 7-23-37

In the spring of 1931 nine Negro lads whose average age was fifteen were charged at Scottsboro, Alabama, with criminal assault on two white girls with whom they had travelled in a train. Eight were sentenced to death, and only a rally of those in the United States who were horrified at the sentences and who know how easily in the South racial prejudice may result in judicial murder saved them from prompt execution. Ever since then the nine Negroes have been on trial in one court or another on the same charge, and their fate has been a matter of concern all the world over. Twice the Supreme Court of Alabama has confirmed the sentences, and twice its decision has been overturned by the Federal Supreme Court. The evidence against the boys was always of the flimsiest, and as early as 1933 one of the girls who had testified for the prosecution confessed to perjury. In any jurisdiction in which the Negro can be sure of fair play the case would have collapsed long ago, but such is the structure of the American judicial system that the Federal Supreme Court could do no more than refer the trials back to Alabama, and until now the Alabama court has seemed quite relentless in its determination to reaffirm conviction. Now, however, it is announced that in the third trial at Decatur the State has withdrawn the charges against four of the accused and they have been freed. One is still under sentence of death, two have been sentenced to life imprisonment and one to twenty years for assaulting the deputy sheriff while travelling in custody. But those both in the United States and in Britain who have provided the means to combat the mockery of Alabaman justice now know that their six years of effort have not been vain, and they will continue that effort until the wrong is righted in all the cases.

NEGROES TO BE PARDONED?

Manchester Guardian Weekly 7-30-37

Scottsboro Case

From our New York Correspondent

The four youthful defendants in the Scottsboro case, who were unexpectedly set free on Saturday by the State of Alabama, arrived here on Tuesday and were given an ovation at the railway station by several thousand New York Negroes, representatives of the city's vast Negro community.

There are unconfirmed rumours in circulation that the sentenee of death passed on one of the other five defendants may be changed to imprisonment and that all five will receive pardons after a few years. The repeated trials of this case have been extremely expensive to the State of Alabama.

American Liberals are bitterly indignant over the solution of the case, under which four of the defendants are freed and the other five sentenced to long terms of imprisonment or, in one case, death. They argue that the testimony against all of them was exactly the same and that if one is innocent all are. They declare that the compromise had a political motive and insist that it constitutes an open admission that injustice is being done.

The United States Supreme Court has twice set aside the verdict of the Alabama Courts and at the third trial the Judge overruled the jury, which found the Negroes guilty, on the ground that its verdict was not in accordance with the evidence. In all these instances no distinction was made regarding the guilt or innocence of one defendant or another.

PAPER FAVORS COMPROMISE IN FAMOUS CASE

N. Y. Herald Tribune Analyzes Situation At Scottsboro

NEW YORK, Aug. 6—Having taken the editorial lead in crystallizing public opinion in New York and the nation in favor of a compromise in the Scottsboro cases, the New York Herald Tribune, in a column long leading editorial Monday, gave a masterful analysis of the dramatic turn on Saturday which freed four of the boys, but concluded the matter is not ended, and that the ends of justice have been only partly served.

Under the caption, "Scottsboro," the paper said:

"The surprising denouement in which the retrial of the Scottsboro cases has ended represents a material victory for the cause of reason and justice in the American community—a victory even though reason must find it difficult to reconcile the contradictions of the settlement and the requirements of an ideal and perfect justice are obviously far from being served by its terms. A state, after holding two men for more than six years in prison and on one occasion condemning both of them to death, abrubtly announces, for reasons available from the beginning, that they were not guilty. It releases two more with a similar implication that they suffered six years' imprisonment and imminent risk of death for a crime of which they were innocent. In the case of a fifth, who had subsequently assaulted one of his guards, the state drops the original charges; but the judge, on account of this crime of which the man must be assumed innocent, increases by five years the fifteen-year sentence he had intended to impose for the assault. Finally, proceedings are dropped against these five defendants only because four others have been convicted and sentenced to death or life imprisonment, though the evidence against the latter group is virtually the same as that against the former, and certainly little if any more substantial.

"Far From Even-Handed Justice"

"All this is very far, indeed, from a picture of even-handed, impersonal justice; and looking only at this aspect of the cases one would have slight reason for comfort. But there is another aspect. Four of the defendants, to begin with, have been released; they are legally free men and their jeopardy is at an end. A generation or so ago they would almost certainly have been lynched with their companions as soon as they had been apprehended. More recently, after being run through the mere form of a trial, such as was accorded them at Scottsboro in 1931, they would have been 'legally murdered,' and that would have been the end of the matter.

"That it was not the end of the matter in their cases was due to many things. If Communist agitation had a hand in it so did the better conscience, the greater enlightenment and restraint of the people of Alabama. If it was due to the defense funds raised to keep up the fight, it was due also to the judicial system in which defense could make itself effective—a system which in the South, as elsewhere, is freeing itself from old traces of lynch law and politics, and which still has at its head the unimpaired arm of the Supreme court of the United States, still powerful to protect the lowliest from denials of justice by mob spirit of whatever character.

"Acquittal Impossible"

"A glance over past history is enough to show how much has been gained; a glance at the more immediate history surrounding these cases puts the 'compromise' itself in a better light. If it does not fulfill the dictates of abstract justice, it does represent an unexpectedly hopeful practical adjustment of the fiercly clashing human elements through which justice here, as always, was compelled to work. The cases were deeply plunged not only in racial passion and sectional jealousy, but in the furious hatreds which radicalism always promotes with its interventions and in the tangle of politics which inevitably grows in such black soils. Every step in the long record seemed only to render an acquittal before a local court and jury more and more humanly impossible, regardless of evidence. If it is not justice, the present solution verges on a statesmanship which is perhaps the nearest approach to justice than can under the circumstances be asked for now.

"We do not think that it is, or ought to be, a final solution. By securing life imprisonment instead of death (the one death sentence will presumably be commuted), the state has left the way open for an ultimate pardon, or, perhaps, some other future and calmer settlement that will stand on firmer ground than does this inconsistent 'compromise.' The Scottsboro cases are not ended. But in reaching this middle position, desipte all the human embarrassments and difficulties with which the problem has been surrounded, the State of Alabama deserves, we think, high commendation. It has given the country new confidence that it will itself find the right end at last; it has shown that the ideals of reason and justice, if sometimes imperfectly expressed—since all men are imperfect—are still in the United States ideals with a living power, which, in several other great modern states, they no longer enjoy."

Statesville, N. C., Record
August 6, 1937

Aftermath Of Scottsboro.

Over the past week-end, Iredell county has suffered the indignity of two terrible crimes which were perpetrated by negroes. One was a case of criminal assault upon a white woman. The other was a case of breaking into the home of a white person and entering the room where a woman was asleep. When the woman awoke and screamed, the negro fled without carrying out his intentions whatever they happened to be.

It just makes one wonder if the outcome of the Scottsboro case has not had a heavy bearing on the minds of many negroes over the country to make them so bold in their nefarious undertakings. It is recalled that some of the negroes in the famous Alabama criminal assault case were freed and that they were taken to New York, received in a grand demonstration and accorded an immense celebration by Harlem negroes assisted by some white people.

The negroes in the Scottsboro case have had the backing in the courts of a society under the high sounding name of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Such an association might do a lot of good among the colored race if it provided educational advantages and proper teaching; but if it spends its resources in encouraging the negroes in crime by making them think that they will be protected from justice for such deeds against the white people of the South, it is going to do them more harm than good and even may instigate a race war.

It is very creditable to the Iredell county officers headed by Sheriff Moore that no harm was allowed to come to the prisoners in the two cases which were tried here this week when mob violence was threatened. It is bad that Iredell had to suffer such crimes; but a lynching would not have been in any way creditable to the community.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
August 5, 1937

SCOTTSBORO

Johnson Citians, like most people in all parts of the country, are glad the trial of the men who had become known throughout the world as "the Scottsboro negroes" is over. Let us join in hoping there will be no further attempts to reopen the cases.

Nothing in recent years has done more to give the far South a reputation for bigotry and cruelty than the manner in which these cases were handled. In the face of more than a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the defendants and notwithstanding some admittedly perjured evidence a certain section of the public insisted on the conviction of the accused, not because they were guilty but because they were negroes.

The case against them, always weak enough, was probably strengthened, rather than otherwise, because of the fact that Communistic organizations and individuals with alleged Communistic leanings, came to their rescue. Many observers suspected the concern of these was not so much with the fairness or unfairness of the negroes' trials as with an effort to prove the United States to be the home of prejudice and unfairness of an ugly type which could be overthrown only by Red revolution.

Under the circumstances, we're inclined to think it was a pity one of the negroes was condemned to die and four others were sentenced to what was described as "virtual life imprisonment." It would have been better, in our opinion, to let one or two possibly guilty men escape than to have the charge of "railroading" innocent men hurled throughout the world.

In saying so, we echo the opinion of *The Montgomery Advertiser* and most of the other leading newspapers of the South. Like them, we have said nothing that should be construed in favor of Southern women's being attacked by either black or white men.

Brandon, Miss. News
July 29, 1937

Good Riddance

ALABAMA officials believe and hope that the infamous and notorious "Scottsboro cases" are finally finished and definitely got rid of after six years in the courts.

Other Southerners with the welfare of the South at heart share the hope, even if believing that justice was cheated.

Four of the negroes are under penitentiary sentences ranging up to 75 years, and one again is under the death sentence, although officials predict the Governor will commute it. Four others are free and out of the state.

The four who were freed were wisely and immediately taken north on a train. Alabama was no place for them. Neither was any other Southern state. The news descriptions of the shouting crowds meeting them in New York, mostly negroes, making heroes of them, may have been sickening but are not alarming.

If the example of the "heroes" encourages more vicious crimes and rapes and racial strife, the victims will be in the North, which is just and proper.

The South is glad to get rid of the cases. They have undoubtedly directly inspired many of the crimes reported in recent years in the South, and many of the lynchings of the same period.

New York is welcome to these negroes, and if they have any sense left they will stay there.

Kannapolis, N. C., Independent
August 11, 1937

DID SCOTTSBORO DO THIS?

A bold negro walked into the home of a white woman near Kannapolis and criminally assaulted her while her two small children looked on helplessly.

A white woman awoke at her home in Iredell county the other night to find a negro in her bedroom.

Other cases similar to these and worst are being recorded nearly every day in the news columns.

Are instances of this kind an aftermath of the famed Scottsboro trial? The Statesville Record, and other southern papers think that case may have something to do with it.

"It just makes one wonder," says the Record in a recent editorial, "if the outcome of the Scottsboro case has not had a heavy bearing on the minds of many negroes over the country to make them so bold in their nefarious undertakings. It is recalled that some of the negroes in the famous Alabama criminal assault case were freed and they were taken to New York, received in a grand demonstration and accorded an immense celebration by Harlem negroes assisted by some white people.

"The negroes in the Scottsboro case have had the backing in the courts of a society under the high sounding name of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Such an association might do a lot of good among the colored race if it provided educational advantages and proper teaching; but if it spends its resources in encouraging the negroes in crime by making them think that they will be protected from justice for such deeds against the white people of the South, it is going to do them more harm than good..."

Lawyer Samuel Liebowitz, who defended the Scottsboro negroes, has declared the interests he represented will look after the rehabilitation of the five negroes freed by the Alabama courts. It will be interesting to follow the careers of those negroes for the next few years in order to learn whether, after all, the darkies had any real aid in finding themselves after their many years in jail or whether they will be left to shift for themselves after the publicity their lawyers received from the Scottsboro victories has died away.

* * *

Headline says "Japan serves last warning on China". . . And here we thought all the time it was Japan who was doing the bullying act over there.

* * *

The farmers of America will collect ten billion dollars for their crops this year and if they run true past form they will probably donate at least one tenth of that to the G. O. P. campaign fund for 1938.

Tazewell, Va., Clinch Valley News
August 6, 1937

THE ending of the famous Scottsboro case in Alabama as regards several of the defendants is a striking illustration of the danger and uncertainty of jury trials in certain parts of the South should a Negro happen to be the defendant. Four of the colored men were sentenced to be electrocuted at the first trial, but appeals to the higher courts saved them. Suppose, for the sake of argument, no appeal had been taken, and the men had been executed, who would be guilty of murder, and who would have to answer for it? The men were charged with assaulting white girls, all of whom were hoboes in a box car on a Southern railroad, and except for the color, there was little difference.

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Athens, Ala., Democrat
July 29, 1937

THE NEGRO'S BEST FRIEND

Now, more than ever before, the South is in the limelight in every field, including literature, science and the law. The recent disposition of the Scottsboro case, which brought Alabama so much unfavorable publicity and vitriolic diatribes against the South, has again given us the center of the stage.

In contrast to the abuse poured on us by Yankee authors who know nothing about their subjects when it is the South, is the following from Frank Parker Stockbridge, columnist for one of the nation's largest newspaper syndicates:

"A few weeks ago I visited a typical Southern plantation and had a chance to learn how the negro employees were treated. There are thirty families employed the year 'round on this ten-thousand acre tract, with extra help at cotton-picking and harvest times. The head of each family is paid $30 a month. They get living quarters and fuel free, and all they want of the foodstuffs grown on the place. Most of the cabins have gardens and flocks of poultry. The negroes have their own community center or 'jook' where they have their dances and social affairs. In case of illness, they get free medical care.

"How many Northern white workers, I wonder, have $30 a month left after paying rent, food and doctor's bills? Not many. In addition, the women and older children are given first chance on this plantation to earn extra money at picking time. The negro foremen get $50 a month and better quarters.

"I was reminded of what Booker T. Washington, the great negro educator, said to me years ago. 'The best friend of the Southern negro is the Southern white man.'"

Why can't people living north of the Mason-Dixon line who have never seen the South in any but an unbiased light, take the word of Booker T. Washington?

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 29, 1937

Mr. Leibowitz Purifies Himself

FROM a news story in The New York Times telling of the arrival of four Scottsboro boys in Manhattan:

"Mr. Leibowitz stepped out, punched out the crown of his straw hat and sailed it away, explaining that he did it to get rid of some of the 'grime of Alabama'."

We feel certain that Mr. Leibowitz, upon breathing of New York's untainted air once more, feels purified and sanctified now that he has rid himself of the "grime of Alabama." We suggest that his multitude of admirers in this state—those who helped him to accomplish his end—now take up a collection for a new hat. But don't buy the hat in Alabama; buy it in New York. The World's Greatest Criminal Lawyer cannot afford to be contaminated by a hat which has touched the Land of the Great Unwashed.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 29, 1937

The "Scottsboro Boys."

The eleventh trial in connection with the famous "Scottsboro Case" ended last week in the conviction of two more of the nine Negroes accused of assaulting two white women on a freight train more than six years ago, and the dropping of the charges against four of the defendants. One of the Negroes is under sentence of death and four are under prison sentences ranging from twenty to ninety-nine years.

Samuel Leibowitz of New York was chief counsel for the Negroes in most of the trials, and when the cases against four of them were nolle prosequied on condition that they leave Alabama and not return, he left with them immediately for an unknown destination. He took them to New York, where they were met at the Pennsylvania Station by a vast throng and given a rousing ovation. The crowd seems to have been composed largely of colored folks from Harlem, and Harlem has taken the four "Scottsboro Boys" to its bosom.

All New York welcomes these four boys and, naturally, Harlem is making heroes of them. Interest in them may wane after a time, but for the present it is enthusiastic and genuine. While Mr. Leibowitz has not announced what he plans to do with them, and may not have decided that question, he has declared no group will be permitted to exploit them. It is to be hoped New York or Harlem will not carry lionization of the youths to extremes, particularly if part of the idea is to embarrass or offend the South. But even so, Alabama at least should make no complaint. If a large part of the country looks upon the "Scottsboro Boys" as martyrs to injustice born of race prejudice, that State is to blame.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 29, 1937

In The Idiom

THE esteemed Tuscaloosa News, noting the swift end of the Scottsboro cases, ribs The Advertiser and some others in an entertaining editorial, and then mars the piece and the occasion by committing a faux pas. Editor Shelton should know that it is no longer polite to say "Civil War." Tchk-tchk!—The Montgomery Advertiser.

We don't mind being taken to task—but not like that! The faux pas to which The Advertiser refers was a faux pas, all right, but not ours. We placed the words "Civil War" in the mouth of an imaginary citizen of Manhattan, not in our own. And if The Advertiser doesn't think that the War Between the States is still the Civil War to about 90 per cent of those who live north of the Mason and Dixon Line, it doesn't know its Yankeedom. And we know that it knows its Yankedom. As for us, we've been Warring Between the States since the U. D. C. first put us on the right track some eight or ten years ago. "Civil War" is as taboo in these columns as Hitler in the Kremlin.

We were merely having our imaginary Manhattan character speak in the idiom, as it were. If he had had occasion to address the editor of The Montgomery Advertiser personally, for instance, he would have said, "You all is, etc." Nor would his "you all" have been an editorial plural. It would have been a Yankee singular—from an unsingular Yankee.

We clinch our argument when we say that it's very much the same thing as Atticus Mullin referring to a turning plow as a turnplow. Atticus, like the Yankee, just doesn't know any better.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
July 21, 1937

This Afternoon

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES II

"Thou canst not say I did it; never shake
Thy gory locks at me."

• • •

Who did this thing to the South? Who made this ugliness, this bitterness, this rotten place in a civilization, this stench in the nostrils of a world, this Scottsboro case? Some say the lust of black men did it, some the lies of white women, but there are more defendants than these, and more plaintiffs. The ghastly, unending mess is chargeable against both the South and the North, against radicals and reactionaries, against politicians, against jurics, against the press, against the bar, against the bench. Sometimes the charge is of pride, of stubbornness, prejudice, hate, ambition, sadism, vanity. Sometimes it is of stupidity, bungling, carelessness, bad psychology, thoughtless sensationalism, unintelligent altruism.

• • •

Who that has had any part in this case on either side or as a neutral can say he did not do it, that he did not contribute something to the elements that have made the compound so foul? To admit the mess and confess a part in it is good for all of us now. It may held us all somehow to make an end of a case which has gone so far beyond the gondola car at Paint Rock that the original plaintiffs and defendants are almost forgotten.

• • •

There just simply isn't anything for anybody, good or bad, to gain out of the Scottsboro case any more. It is very well to talk of fundamental principles of right and wrong but when those principles are lost in a thousand extraneous considerations and when both sides are joined in holy deadlock, the only thing for sensible men to do is to close the case out, compromise it to death, postpone the vital issues to some other case where they will be less confused, more resolvable.

• • •

This summer may go down in

history as the one when people in general learned the importance of eating salt to offset perspiration losses. At the same time come rumors of great new salt domes in the South where perspiring is heaviest. Isn't nature wonderful!

• • •

In this column's experience the most oppressive heat to be found anywhere in the country is that of Washington, D. C. And the most dangerous is that of New York, N. Y. Southern heat is highly uncomfortable but it is more a thing of perspiration than of prostration. Below the Potomac many swelter but few expire. Above the Potomac it is different—and worse. And now that science is telling us to take salt here in lieu of lost perspiration, it may be that the heat won't even make Southerners lazy any more.

• • •

Is there a back-to-the-home movement for women, and are American women holding out against it more successfully than European ones? Miss Gordon Holmes, managing director of the National Securities Corporation, of London, says so. Unemployment, she reports, has caused a "general slide back" in the status of women abroad and brought about the return of many women to their homes. She thinks American women hold the future of the business women in their hands, and wants them to do something about it. Particularly she wants them to put more women in public office.

• • •

Since women are the latest-comers to the economic tables it may be natural that they should be asked to retire when the table seems to have thirteen. But against this is the fact that women have proven themselves more capable in certain types of work than men. Against it, too, is the claim that there really aren't too many at the table, that given a proper distribution, the consumption demands of the world are enough to give everybody a job.

• • •

At any rate, the modern American answer to whatever excesses of job-seekers over jobs occur is that elimination shall be on a basis of age, not sex.

CALVIN'S DIGEST

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

VICTORIA PRICE

Victoria Price sat at a second story window and watched four of the Scottsboro boys [illegible] before these same boys had been sentenced to death on her story. Now the state said openly it thought they were innocent, and quashed the indictments against them. This happened in Alabama.

Victoria Price, descendant of white women who have watched Negroes die because they pointed the finger at them, this time suffered own white men who [illegible] it her wild sex [illegible] even though it involved Negroes. Why didn't they believe her? Why didn't they trocute the boys? Why didn't vindicate white womanhood more? Wh didn't they teach groes again that white women acred?

Victoria Price doesn't understand that the world is growing wiser, even in Alabama. She doesn't understand the significance of the word "progress," the meaning of the millions of dollars being spent in education for the masses, and the meaning of the words "interracial relations."

She does not understand these things. She lives in the world of the ignorant, the world of the uninformed, the world of the prejudiced, the world of the cruel and heartless, the world of the hard and the unregenerate. Many white people themselves pity Victoria's type, and are anxious to do something that will make her kind become fewer in this rich country of ours. Opportunity and educational advantages, spread out to where the masses can benefit, will reach Victoria's type, and that is why the New Deal is spending so much of the Federal money, and pulling so hard for "reform." It hopes to make America a better place, socially, for all the people.

For Judge Knight, father of Thomas E. Knight, the late attorney general of Alabama, there is no hope but the hope of death. This old man, as head of the State Supreme Court, would have, like Victoria, relished the death of the Scottsboro boys. But fate decreed otherwise, he was not able to send them to their death ahead of time. There is forgiveness and hope for Victoria Price, because she does not understand; there is neither for Judge Knight, as there was none for his son, for they understood perfectly what they were determined to do. But thank heaven they failed.

NEGRO LEADERSHIP GAINS

Negro leadership received renewed strength upon the naming of Dr. Dwight Oliver Wendell Holmes as president of Morgan College, Baltimore. Another school of ancient and honorable lineage, for the past seventy-odd years administered by a white head, is now in colored hands. Morgan follows Shaw and Bishop in this popular and correct trend of giving the leadership of Negroes to Negroes themselves.

On the other hand, Negroes must become doubly conscious of their increasing power and prestige and conduct themselves as befits leaders of men. Trials and tribulations come to leaders, and they must, in the midst of storm and strife, keep cool, calm and collected. Bon voyage to Morgan under Negro guidance. There is every reason to believe she is in safe hands. The success of her course will be strong argument for additional leadership opportunity for Negroes in this field.

SIGNS OF RECOVERY

Although depressing reports may still be heard, there are signs in different parts of the country of real and substantial recovery. In Savannah, Ga., a new bank has been opened, the first since the depression, and the first colored bank in that city in nine years. In Newport News, the Crown Savings Bank reports the largest percentage of increase in the savings department of any bank in the city. The North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company of Durham reports collections for the first half of the year of $1,035,588.65; in Chicago three colored men, the Jones Brothers, have opened a 5c, 10c, 25c and $1.00 store, giving employment to nearly 100 people; in Oklahoma City, a newspaper, the Black Dispatch, is installing about $40,000 in new equipment; in Louisville, another newspaper, the Leader, is moving into a fine new home this fall; in Durham, colored bankers were invited to attend the meeting of the white bankers at Chapel Hill; in Asheville, N. C., Louis Armstrong was brought in to play for the anniversary ball of a newspaper, the Southern News, and so on. There are many signs of substantial recovery and the return of business confidence.

"AMERICA'S" EDITORIAL STAFF

We are pleased to be advised by Father John LaFarge, associate editor of "America", national Catholic weekly journal of opinions, of New York, that, contrary to reports, he did not write the article, "The Black Cardinal," published in a recent number of the magazine, but that the article was written by Leonard Feeney, the Literary Editor. Father LaFarge makes the correction, he explains, not because it matters so much, but that he would not like the public to get the idea that perhaps he writes all the articles in "America" on the race question. On the contrary, he says, all the staff members feel as the various articles show; they are written by different men—some by Paul L. Blakely, some by Mr. Feeney, and some by Father LaFarge. In other words, the entire editorial staff of "America" is represented by the various articles written and published. The recent long editorials on "No Compromise" on Scottsboro, and on he Anti-Lynching bill were by Mr. Blakely.

Father LaFarge is active in interracial work, and is a zealous promoter of the cause of interracial justice. He admits that the staff of "America" is pleased with the evident popularity of its interracial articles with

No Exploitation

IT is heartening to learn from Attorney Samuel S. Leibowitz that there will be no exploitation of the four Scottsboro boys who gained their freedom after six-and-a-half years of martyrdom in Alabama.

First concern will be for their health, education and spiritual rehabilitation. Two of the four were converted Sunday and all four joined church in Brooklyn.

Freedom from any kind of imprisonment invariably brings with it weighty moral responsibilities to those so freed. Unless the proper guidance, counsel and inspiration are placed within their reach such persons can hardly be expected to emerge from the conflict of life victorious.

Because of the moral responsibility to their five comrades in prison: to society—particularly represented in the agencies; at home and abroad—largely responsible for the belated justice which made their freedom possible; and to others of their class in the South upon whom racial prejudice delights to prey, Attorney Leibowitz's assurance of "no exploitation" is comforting.

It is the duty of those fully aware of the significance of the Scottsboro Case to racial life in America, to do what they can to encourage and to assist these boys to become useful citizens of society.

Alabama

Lynchings-1937
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ALABAMA'S ACTION IN FREEING FOUR OF THE nine defendants in the Scottsboro case came as welcome news after six and a half years of seemingly hopeless struggle to obtain elementary justice in the Southern courts. The importance of the victory may be judged from the fact that it has been only a few days since the state announced its determination to demand the death penalty for all but one of the Negroes. But the battle is only half won. One of the defendants, Clarence Norris, is still under sentence of death; another, Andy Wright, is faced by a ninety-nine-year sentence; while two of the others, Haywood Patterson and Andy Weems, face seventy-five years' imprisonment. Ozie Powell was cleared of the charge of rape, but sentenced to twenty years for his attack on Deputy Blalock. From the standpoint of justice, Alabama's position is even less tenable than before. The evidence against the four who were convicted was identical with that against those who were released, consisting solely of the unsupported, and frequently contradictory, testimony of Victoria Price. For some months rumors have been heard of a compromise agreement to free the boys on terms which would save the face of the Alabama authorities. But the final outcome does not appear to have resulted from any such bargain. Justice demands that the fight be continued until the state of Alabama not only frees all of the Negroes but makes some amends for their six and a half years in prison.

---- LEIBOWITZ

Deal With State Strongly Denied By Noted Lawyer

Four Defendants In Scottsboro Case Freed In Surprise Move By State; Weems and Wright Sentenced

POWELL GETS TWENTY-YEAR TERM

Special to Journal and Guide

DECATUR, Ala.—"We have just begun to fight."

Such was the parting salvo of Samuel Leibowitz, chief of defense counsel in the Scottsboro cases, as he left here Saturday en route to New York with four of the nine defendants in the case who were freed dramatically by the State as the six-and-a-half year old case ended temporarily in a maze of inconsistencies.

The statement was in the nature of a challenge and in answer to predictions from a "high source" that the defense "will drop the appeals in the Heywood Patterson and Andy Wright cases, and the Governor will extend clemency to Clarence Norris."

Patterson, who was convicted for the fourth time in January 1936 on the basis of testimony of Mrs. Victoria Price that she and Ruby Bates were raped by the nine youths aboard a freight train between Stevenson and Paint Rock, Alabama in March 1931, has appealed the 75-year sentence to the United States Supreme Court.

Norris, the first of the defendants to be tried in this last series of trials, was sentenced last week by Judge W. W. Callahan to be executed at Kilby Prison on September 24. His case is also on appeal. A sentence of 99 years was imposed on Wright at the same time in accordance with the jury's recommendations.

RETURNS TO NORMALCY

POWELL PLEALS GUILTY

l entered a plea of guilty to the charge of at-
eputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock of Morgan County
ife, on advice of counsel.
nsideration of the fact that the State had con-
drop the rape indictment against Powell in the
e, Circuit Solicitor Melvin C. Hutson of Morgan
old the court that the prosecution would insist
maximum penalty for Powell.
the conviction of Patterson.
At the time, he was shackled, to-
gether with the other prisoners, to
two officers. Armed guards were
sitting in the front seat of the
machine, and automobile contain-
ing armed state policemen or
deputy sheriffs, acted as escorts
for the party.
Powell was not taken to the hos-
pital in Birmingham until several
hours after the fracas, and upon
arrival was shackled, hand and
foot, to a bed in the
armed officers post
No one was al-
lowed to approach within a full
block of the hospital without spe-
cial permission.
The incident brought forth from
the Governor of the State an order

Center of the world news spotlight for more than four years, this Northern Alabama community sought a return to normalcy this week after swift court action on Saturday freed four of the defendants who have lived in the valley of the shadow of death for six and a half years, and left the remaining five under sentences ranging from 20 years imprisonment, to death.

Assistant State's Attorney General Thomas S. Lawson, chief of the prosecution staff, agreed to dismissal of charges against Olean Montgomery, Willie Roberson, and Eugene Williams, all of whom were convicted at the original trials at Scottsboro in 1931, and Roy Wright whose first trial also at Scottsboro, ended in a hung jury.

This sudden and unexpected move by the State came Saturday morning, finding him guilty as charged by Mrs. Price and fixing his punishment at 75 years imprisonment.

Ozie Powell, half-crazed from the effects of a bullet wound in his head inflicted by a Morgan County deputy sheriff in January 1936 while the defendants were being returned to the Jefferson County jail in Birmingham, was sentenced to twenty years imprisonment by Judge Callahan on a charge of assault, with intent to murder.

Disregarding a plea by Attorney
that he take into con-
the fact that Powell had
more than six years
Judge Callahan imposed
year term.
not been that the State
the other charge of
him I would have
fifteen years," the
"As it is, I will have
him to twenty years in
tentiary. The State de-

was shot in the head
when he allegedly slashed Deputy
Bialock in an attempt to escape.
The fracas occurred on the Bee
Line Highway near Cullman, 35
miles south of

to save Powell's life at all costs so that he might be brought to trial. The youth is said to have become insane from the effects of his imprisonment and the shooting.

In ordering the release of the four youths Saturday the prosecution staff issued a lengthy statement declaring that they were "convinced beyond any question of doubt, after going through eleven trials of the Scottsboro cases, that the defendants have been tried and are guilty of raping Victoria Price in the gondola car as she recited upon the witness stand."

"Her testimony is corroborated by reputable witnesses so as, in our opinion, to convince any fair-minded man that these defendants did participate in throwing these white boys off of the gondola car and raping Mrs. Victoria Price, the statement reads.

"But after careful consideration of all the testimony, every lawyer connected with the prosecution is convinced that the defendants Willie Roberson and Olen Montgomery are not guilty.

"The doctor that examined Willie Roberson the day after the commission of the crime states that he was sick, suffering with a severe venereal disease, and that in his condition it would have been very painful for him to have committed that crime, and that he would not have had any inclination to commit it. He has told a very plausible story from the beginning: that he was in a box car and knew nothing about the crime.

"Olen Montgomery was practically blind and has also told a plausible story, which has been unshaken all through the litigation, which put him some distance from the commission of the crime. The State is without proof other than the prosecutrix as to his being in the gondola car, and we feel that it is a case of mistaken identity.

ENDS OF JUSTICE MET

"Mr. Bailey, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Hutson all entertain the same view as to these two Negroes, and in view of the doubt generated by the fact that their physical condition was as stated above, the fact that two men were seen in a box car by a disinterested witness, which tends to corroborate Willie Roberson, we feel that the policy of the law and the ends of justice would not justify us in asking a conviction of these two cases.

"Two of the defendants were juveniles at the time this crime was committed. According to a careful investigation by the Attorney General's office, we are convinced that at the time of the actual commission of this crime one of these juveniles was 12 years old and the other one was 13, and while they were in the gondola car; when the rape was committed, counsel for the State think that in view of the fact they have been in jail for six and a half years the ends of justice would be met at this time by releasing these two juveniles, on condition that they leave the State, never to return."

The whole proceeding of the release of the four defendants Saturday was carried out secretly and without any advanced publicity. Even the boys themselves did not know what was happening.

In the belief that they were being returned to jail in Birmingham they came out of the little red brick jail in the rear of the courthouse and were hustled into two cars provided by Dr. Newman Sykes, local physician.

NOT AWARE OF FREEDOM

Until Leibowitz apprised them of the fact, they themselves did not know they were free. State policemen were ordered by Judge Callahan to escort the party to the state line where they left for Chattanooga by way of Pulaski, Tennessee.

The entire party was well on its way before news of the release of the four defendants spread among Decatur's 18,000 citizens. Victoria Price, peering from a court house window saw them leave and sneered.

Local colored citizens, who have virtually been on edge for the more than four years the trials have been centered here, received news of the temporary end of the case with mingled feelings of relief and sorrow.

While the case was widely discussed all up and down West Vine Street, principal colored business thoroughfare, statements regarding the outcome were somewhat guarded and the tension which has been apparent throughout the ordeal was still present.

CASE COST STATE $75,000

It was estimated by Attorney General A. A. Carmichael that prosecution of the cases during the six-year period, has cost the State of Alabama nearly $75,000.

It was charged that the jury in the Wright case did not debate his guilt or innocence but only how much time he should have, after Judge Callahan, in his charge to them, dwelt exclusively on the prosecutions evidence.

Wright was saved from the usual sentence of death only because the state agreed not to ask for execution, but even then the state asked a pen term of only 50 or 75 years.

Immediately after Wright's conviction, the trial of Clarence Weems got under way, and for the second time the state agreed not to ask for capital punishment.

The testimony in the Wright case followed that of all previous cases with Mrs. Price contending the youth was one of those who attacked her on a freight train near Scottsboro in March, 1931.

After Melvin C. Hutson, circuit solicitor of Morgan County, pleaded that the defendant be given a life sentence equaling 50 or 75 years in prison, Leibowitz told the jury he was weary of listening to attacks on lawyers and witnesses from New York. He said that as a lawyer he had a right to try cases in any state in the country, but if juries here were to make up their minds before hearing any evidence that they must "put outsiders in their place," he was just wasting his time and might "just as well go home and let you do what you will with these helpless Negroes."

The New York attorney took exception to Callahan's charge to the jury on the ground of bias. Judge Callahan also denied a defense motion for an arrest of judgment on the ground that the Morgan county court lacked jurisdiction.

MOVED FOR TRANSFER

Despairing of an acquittal in this part of the state, Leibowitz moved to transfer all the cases to federal court on the ground that the Alabama law limiting the defendant to one change of venue deprives him of his constitutional right to a fair and impartial trial.

Asked if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced, Wright declared:

"I didn't get justice here."

"Well," said Judge Callahan, "that's the finding of the jury, and it's my duty to pronounce sentence upon you."

Norris was also brought in. When Wright told him his trial had come out, both boys laughed.

Judge Callahan asked Norris if there was any reason why the death sentence should not be carried out.

"There is," the prisoner replied. "They didn't find me guilty. They just thought they did. I am accused of a crime I never even thought of committing."

The court set the date of execution for Sept. 24, but the sentence was automatically stayed by notice of appeal.

COURT'S CHARGE TO JURY

The court charged the jurors that, if they believed the defendants conspired to attack the girls, or that the defendant, by his presence at the scene of the crime, aided and abetted in its commission, he was as guilty as though he had ravished the girls himself. He mentioned briefly at the end of his speech that if they did not think Wright guilty, they might turn him loose. He also warned them against returning a verdict of death.

Leibowitz also filed an exception to the part of Judge Calahan's speech dealing with conspiracy, on the ground that no conspiracy was charged in the indictment.

Foreman John T. Cooper said afterward the jury never seriously debated the question of Wright's guilt or innocence. The only delay in reporting a verdict was caused by one man who held out for a sentence of 75 years.

Concord, N. C. Herald Observer
July 30, 1937

SCOTTSBORO

It is noted with some relief that the famous Scottsboro cases have been liquidated and that, with a generous distribution of seventy-five year prison sentences Alabama justice has relented sufficiently to permit nol prosses in the cases of four of the Negro defendants, three of whom were sentenced to death in the original trials six years ago.

Unable to divest itself immediately of an issue which has assured a comfortable degree of activity and publicity for all these years, the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race now sets out on a program of educating the Negroes freed from the peril of death an Alabama. They will be taught trades, according to their attorney.

All this, by way of rehabilitation and reform mught suggest to Alabama a generous gesture toward prevention. Doubtless. after this vindication of Southern chivalry. Alabama might now concede that ordinarily Southern ladies of unimpeachable character don't travel about the country on freight cars, don't mingle promiscuously with chance acquaintances, black or white, in hobo joints, and that, even in Alabama, such practices are frowned upon.

Raleigh News and Observer.

Opelika, Ala. News
July 26, 1937

LEIBOWITZ HAILED BY HARLEM BLACKS AS NATIONAL HERO

New York, July 26.—(AP)—Harlem had another hero today, Samuel Leibowitz, the New York lawer who defended the four Scottsboro boys freed by an Alabama court.

"He's the greatest fellow in America," said a bystander at one of the half dozen street-corner meetings called after news of the verdict reached Harlem.

There was talk of a parade and a mass welcome for the four boys, if they come to New York but the conversation also turned to the five who were not freed.

"At any rate" said Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, "the fight for the freedom of the five convicted youths will go on."

His statement was printed in a bulletin distributed by the Harlem International Labor Defense Committee, proclaiming: "Four Scottsboro boys freed. Alabama must free all the Scottsboro boys."

SAMUEL LEIBOWITZ

PERHAPS there is no living man in America today who has wrought more heroically in a cause than did Samuel Leibowitz, justly renowned New York attorney. We will go even further and aver that, for that matter, there is perhaps none living or dead, who ever stood more steadfast to a chosen task or duty, than did this great barrister and advocate of the downtrodden. We have had heroes who have given up their lives for their country's sake; we have had them who have paid the supreme sacrifice for the sake of loved ones or friends; but the number who have espoused the cause of the poor and the despised, the hated, the maligned, the helpless and the ignorant, risking death as did Samuel Leibowitz every time he entered the confines of the state of Alabama, are few, even few indeed.

We cast aside as irrelevant the question of what compensation, from a monetary standpoint, Mr. Leibowitz may have received for his services in a legal way. To us his services were and are without price. He was more than a lawyer defending nine helpless youths in a court before a judge. He was a protector, a shield against the threatening darts of bodily violence. His courage, the courage of the stout of heart, unwavering in its incessant exhibition, not only shielded the boys, but it kept aflame the determination of the friends of justice the country over, and caused them to continue in the fight for the unfortunate Negro boys who had been caught in the vile net of a southern white woman's unmigitated lies.

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Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
July 22, 1937

Scottsboro Case

FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER

Talk now is of compromising the aged and in many respects infamous Scottsboro case in which nine or ten negroes have been convicted several times and sentenced to die for criminally assaulting two white women hoboes aboard a freight train in Alabama.

The bi-racial situation in the South has a tendency to place a great social emphasis on assaults and attacks of all kinds between members of the different races, not only to protect the individual but to prevent the creation of incidents likely to cause mass ill-feeling and violence between the white and colored people, who are showing the world that two different races can live harmoniously together.

This emphasis undoubtedly enters into the Scottsboro case and influences it.

We think the average Southern white man is torn between two sentiments in the Scottsboro case.

The first sentiment is to punish to the limit of the law the perpetrators of the attack on the two white women if an honest jury is satisfied of the fact of the attack and the identity of the assailants.

The second sentiment is one of disgust with two women who would invite just the type of assault the Scottsboro prosecutrices allege by putting themselves in a position to be abused by using a form of transportation habitually used by the most vicious and depraved members of both races.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 27, 1937

Costs of Scottsboro

Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael states that prosecution of the Scottsboro trials has cost the state of Alabama between $50,000 and $75,000. This includes immediate and incidental expenses. The immediate or direct costs are estimated at about $25,000. Court costs alone aggregated $10,264.19. And these figures do not show the total trial costs because no figures applying to the expenses of the defense have been released.

The extraordinary expenses was due to the 10 trials involved and the appeals filed with state and national supreme courts. The state of Alabama could have avoided the larger proportion of this expense by facing realities several years ago, and abandoning a gesture of perverted chivalry, which gained for it nothing and did hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of injury to the state in the minds of outlanders.

It could have renounced the right to ask for first-degree verdicts in the cases five or six years ago and by doing so attained the same results as have accrued in consequence of the tenth trial this month.

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
July 26, 1937

STRANGE SCOTTSBORO PROCEEDINGS

We suppose the public was as much surprised as we at the strange denouement of the so-called "Scottsboro case." All are somewhat confused over the action of the court in deciding not to prosecute four of the men charged with a fiendish crime after having convicted several others in the same court. If they were presumed to be guilty they should have been given a trial and a chance to establish their innocence and the state their guilt, if guilty as charged.

The action of the court in this case is no stranger, however, than the entire proceedings. Of course the juries must have been convinced of the guilt of those convicted. But these men were tried in a hostile atmosphere where it was almost impossible to give them a fair trial. So bitter was the feeling and strong the prejudice that we doubt if a juryman could have continued to live in that community had he voted to acquit the Negroes. So much for the Alabama system.

For that reason and others it is highly doubtful if the verdicts rendered against the accused are permitted to stand unchallenged. In the spirit of justice, the cases should have been removed to another court or a jury outside the vicinage should have been empaneled. The reader will recall that one of the women they are supposed to have criminally attacked repudiated her previous statement, denying that either had been assaulted.

They were convicted on the evidence of the other with vague substantiation by those who first arrested the gang. But the state of Alabama will not be permitted to railroad these persons to the penitentiary simply because of race prejudice. The higher courts will review the evidence and probably will not stand for such proceedings. Dismissal of the other prisoners' cases only heightens the suspicion that the men were unjustly convicted.

Brunswick, Ga., News
July 21, 1937

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE

The infamous Scottsboro case, with which most readers are familiar and which comes out of the state courts of Alabama, has gotten to be a sort of nuisance with the right thinking people of the south. When we say right thinking people, we refer to that vast majority of southern white men and women who have only the kindest regard for the negro and who would sincerely wish to aid their race in the progress they are making toward better living conditions, etc.

This case has been tried and re-tried in Alabama and the defendants have been given the benefit of every assistance and technicality that the law provides, but these young negroes have been convicted time and time again and only last week the case was retried before an Alabama jury and on conviction, Samuel S. Leibowitz, a New York lawyer and counsel for the defense, made this unbecoming and altogether reprehensible statement: "I am in this thing until hell freezes over. I will take the case on twenty trips to the supreme court if necessary."

This is the crux of this situation and it is the essence of the attitude of this man Leibowitz, who not for any feeling for the convicted negroes or for the entire race for that matter, but rather for large fees raised by their friends, has sought to make publicity out of the case and we are afraid has taken advantage of the well-meaning negroes who are paying him.

It ought also to be remembered that Leibowitz's clients —or many of them—are not well-meaning southern negroes of the type we contact every day, but rather they come from some association in New York for the prevention of cruelty to colored people, composed of renegade whites, who dominate it. This Leibowitz and his associates are not in the least bit interested in the future of these negro defendants, but they are bent on venting their spleen against the people of the south and against their determination to enforce at all hazards the law against rape, especially when the victim is a white woman and the crime or the attempt at crime is perpetrated by colored man or men!

The truth of the matter is that Leibowitz thinks nothing of this case from the basic point of view, and for that reason if for no other, he is simply unfit to handle it. He merely seems to be bulldozing a way to prevent it from being finally adjudicated, and the chances are he richly deserved the sort of treatment he has received in Alabama.

That Leibowitz is a bad type of lawyer, there can be no question of doubt. He is unfair and unethical and certainly he is a menace to law and order in this section of the country. The case also convinces us that the south is more tolerant in permitting this blatherskite to practice here, than might be the case in other sections of the country.

We think we have had quite enough of Leibowitz here!

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
July 23, 1937

LIEBOWITZ' FUTILE ATTEMPT TO HELP THE NEGRO RACE

The judge in the Scottsboro case finally slammed down on this Liebowitz for the manner which he exhibted toward the key witness of the state, the victim of the mass rape that was committed in a boxcar in Alabama some years ago and which has been tried and retried several times. The judge told the New York bully that he would have to take the consequences unless he moderates his language as well as his manner of asking questions.

The presence of this agitator and bullyragger in the case was its chief handicap and he has persisted in the effort to create an impression for use in his campaign to keep alive the organization in the east from which is being drawn the funds of negro citizens, who have no better sense than to expect it to be used to their advantage. They are given wild stories of the effect of the trial and are lured into believing that they can eventually upset all tradition, custom and government if they succeed in carrying on That means if they put up as much of their money as the renegade whites wish, those who are mulcting them at will under the guise of this utopia of racial equality that is impending.

The Scottsboro case continued on and the state of Alabama did not demand the murder of the participants. If they are guilty the state made a grave mistake. If they are not they should not be tried but turned loose. How it can be accomplished without serious harm to the state is a ques-

tion that is worrying more people in Alabama than needs be known. The Liebowitz angle has been very grievous in their minds and the New York lawyer is liable to find himself the center of a storm of condemnation as well as eventually of abuse.

It is due to this type of lawyer and to the methods that he has adopted that most of the trouble arises in cases where the racial issue is involved and where the citizenry of the states affected are bulldozed and bullyragged until they cannot carry their measure of duty with any degree of satisfaction or even safety. The gentleman from New York might be excluded by state statute from appearing in Alabama, but that probably would be carrying the personal vindicativeness against him too far. As it is he has prejudiced his own race more than he has helped the negroes in Alabama and some other states.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 26, 1937

Scottsboro Case Ends At Long Last

IT IS to the everlasting credit of Alabama that the State itself made the dramatic move which ended the Scottsboro case.

Asst. Atty.-Gen. Thomas S. Lawson, Melvin Hutson, of Decatur, and H. G. Bailey of the Scottsboro circuit jointly issued a statement Saturday declaring two of the Negroes innocent and pointing out that two others were juveniles at the time of the alleged crime. Hence these four were released. It is said "on high authority" that the one Negro who is under sentence of death will be given clemency. The defense in the case of two who have been sentenced to life imprisonment will withdraw appeals against the verdict. It is likely that these, and two others sentenced Saturday—one to 77 years for criminal assault and the other to twenty years for an attack on an officer—will serve a few years and then be given clemency.

Six and a half weary years have dragged along while these cases have been buffeted around in the courts. Twice, the United States Supreme Court set aside death sentences, first because the defendants were without "benefit of adequate counsel," and later because Negroes were systematically excluded from the juries which handled the case. Negroes were drawn in the jury panel for each of the last series of trials but none served.

The Scottsboro trial became a celebrated case around the world. It grew out of a hobo trip by two young women who had been to Chattanooga and were riding a freight back to their Alabama home. The group of nine Negro boys were riding the same freight. It was alleged that they attacked the two women. There was talk of wholesale lynching, and immediately propaganda on behalf of the Negroes started in the North.

One of the two women, Ruby Bates, in 1933 took the stand and repudiated her story of the attack.

In this worldwide agitation of the Scottsboro affair and in the horror with which a misunderstanding outside world viewed the possibility of Southern mobs burning the Negroes at the State, Chattanooga, for some strange reason, escaped unfavorable publicity. Yet the original lawyer for the Negroes was a Chattanoogan. Four of the Negro boys were Chattanoogans. The mother of two of the accused Negroes was a Chattanooga woman who was taken abroad and exploited in an effort to arouse sympathy and cash for the defendants. The ride on the freight train started here. And yet, Chattanooga was scarcely mentioned in the storm of agitation over the Scottsboro case.

The case was complicated by the entry as defense counsel of Samuel Leibowitz, successful New York criminal lawyer of circus tendencies. Mr. Leibowitz baited the South, belittled Alabama, abused all and sundry and muddied the waters to such an extent that many observers believed a compromise could never be reached so long as he remained in the case. Even during the last week of the trials, Leibowitz hurled charges of hypocricy in the case, and "perjury" in the testimony of one of the alleged woman victims. He was warned by Judge W. W. Callahan to change his tactics or "get ready for trouble" during the trial.

When the Scottsboro cases started, courtrooms in Alabama were packed. There was serious danger of lynching. But when the end came Saturday, it is said that few were in court. The Negroes departed without molestation. One of the most troublesome and potentially dangerous cases in Alabama history ended quietly as if the courts and the people were tired of a case which was inflated far beyond its importance and which should have ended years ago.

We congratulate Alabama on ending the *cause celebre*. There will be no Roman holiday, no new "Sacco Vanzetti." The South has ended the bitter, nauseating, humiliating case—in spite of irritations from well-meaning but misguided friends of the Negro defendants in the North and abroad.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 27, 1937

Scottsboro Denouement

ACTION of the prosecution in dropping all charges of criminal assault against five of the nine Scottsboro defendants is a gratifying development, and serves as a virtual clincher to the argument we have frequently advanced, namely, that all nine of the Negroes are innocent.

Had it not been for the testimony of Victoria Price, one of the two white women alleged to have been attacked, there would have been no case against any of the defendants. The entire prosecution was built around her allegations. Victoria Price maintained steadfastly throughout all the trials that Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson, who now are admitted by the prosecution to be innocent, participated in the mass criminal assault on her and Ruby Bates.

But if Victoria Price was lying about Montgomery and Roberson, as even the prosecution now admits—although both men were once convicted and sentenced to death—what reason is there to think she was telling the truth about the four other defendants who were convicted on rape charges and who are still in prison? It must be borne in mind that Ruby Bates, the other white woman supposed to have been attacked, repudiated the whole story years ago, and admitted that it was a frame-up from beginning to end. And after contending steadfastly for six years that all the defendants were guilty of rape, the prosecution now sets four of them free and drops the rape charge against another.

The obvious conclusion would seem to be that the four men who have been convicted of rape, and who are under sentences ranging from 75 years to death in the electric chair, have committed no serious crime. The fifth Negro who is still held, admits attacking a deputy sheriff 18 months ago, in an effort to escape, and he should be punished for that offense, but, in our opinion, he should never have faced any serious charge in the first place.

Perhaps executive clemency will be extended by Governor Graves to the five defendants who are still held. Unless that is part of the agreement just made, we doubt if any future Governor will release them, for the Scottsboro case involves so much political dynamite, that Governors who are under no obligation to do anything about the prisoners may be all too prone to let them stay in prison, rather than to parole them and risk reprisals from the electorate.

At any rate, the whole wretched case seems to be drawing to a close, with at least a measure of justice done, and the prospect of further concessions from the prosecution. For that, all of us who believe in fair play can give fervent thanks.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
July 30, 1937

After six years of pure unadulterated indifference, or down right cowardice, or perhaps both, the people of Alabama have finally disposed of the famous negro Scottsboro trial, in which nine young negroes were charged with criminal assault on two white women in a freight train. Four of them were turned loose, and five received sentences from 20 to 99 years in the Pen. The four free negroes, with their crime-loving New York lawyer, left Decatur together for the east. It is hoped he will take them into his home in the big city, where he will soon learn what his criminally inclined colored brothers really are. A good negro, man or woman, is a valuable subject, and should receive protection in every way, and does receive it in the south. But a criminal negro is the lowest brute that walks, and does not deserve protection in any way. Had the four been deserving negroes, they would have prevented the five doing what they were charged with, and found guilty of. We wonder if Alabama will allow this criminally inclined lawyer to return to their state to defend others which his nefarious work will encourage in that State, if not in other southern states.

Lynchings - 1937
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RUBY BATES REVIEWS HER SIDE OF SCOTTSBORO CASE

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Now that the Scottsboro case has been almost 50 per cent settled, the following review of the six-year-old trials is appropriate.)

By RUBY BATES

I was like asleep until the Scottsboro case happened, because, working in textile mills for 55 hours for $2.75 a week, I never had much chance to think about things.

Ruby Bates

I hardly could read and write because due to the circumstances of my parents I was only able to continue in school as far as the fourth grade.

Whep we were arrested in Paint Rock, Ala., on March 25, 1931. After spending the night before in Chattanooga, when I was 18, the police and officials had been notified of a fight between colored and white boys and that there were white girls near the scene of the fight on the train.

Threatened With Jail

Those Negro boys were the nine Scottsboro boys that have been in the limelight. A report of me because of what I said at the first trial. They were accused of rape attacks on me and Victoria Price.

We were immediately threatened with jail sentences, myself for vagrancy, and Victoria Price for accompanying a girl under 21 across the State line.

This being a serious charge against Victoria Price she quickly answered that we had been raped by the Negro boys. Being that I was under her influence, let her do the talking and kept quiet.

Constantly while in the Scottsboro jail we were interviewed by various officials in which they coached me especially to stick to the story of Victoria Price. And that is what happened throughout the first Scottsboro trial.

Story from Memory

I told the story at the trial as near like Victoria's as I could remember it, about the guns and knives and being attacked.

Then they began to ask me questions.

"Was you on the freight train?"

"I was."

"Did you see or was you with some boys?"

"I saw some boys but I did not know them." That was what I said.

"Did you see the defendants over there?" He pointed at the Negroes.

"I did."

"Can you pick out the exact ones that raped you?"

"I don't know whether I can or not."

They had all the boys stand up.

"Wasn't it the three last ones on the end of the line?"

I looked up and said, "Yes."

Lied Through Fear

I knew that I was telling false on those boys. But I was scared and was afraid to tell anything only what had been told to me by Victoria.

I shall always feel bad about talking like I did down there in Scottsboro. I hope that I will be forgiven for telling those lies on those nine boys. I know now that it is better to die for telling the truth than to get others in danger of losing their lives just because you are scared.

After the trial I worked a little but as soon as the boss found out who I was I lost the job.

Chooses the Truth

So, when the second trial come, in April, 1933, after the Supreme Court had sent the cases back to Alabama, I testified for the boys.

I guess nobody expected to see me there. Everyone stared me in the face. The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

I told about reading in the papers about the Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick of New York and how I went there to tell him my story. I told how I asked for advice, and if he was me would he go back to Alabama.

And how Fosdick told me if I was telling the truth I should go and tell it to the court about how the boys never touched us, and I did.

Then I told the truth about the boys never touched us.

A few days after, when I read about the verdict, I did not know what to say. The jury found Haywood Patterson, the first of the nine Scottsboro boys that was tried, guilty again.

They haven't got no evidence. There isn't any. The boys are innocent.

Huntsville, Ala. Mercury
July 28, 1937

THE SCOTTSBORO CASE. NOW WHAT?—

The papers say that the "Scottsboro case" has ended by four of the Negroes being released and five having been sentenced from 20 to 99 years in the pen.

Let us, here in the South, face a few facts and see if the Scottsboro case has been settled as nicely as our lawyers would have us believe.

Do we accept this 20 to 99 years penalty as the penalty for Negroes raping white girls in the South as one to follow henceforth?

If friend lawyer thinks this, or if the publishers of the big daily papers in Alabama, who cried for a compromise settlement of the Scottsboro case so loud it was probably heard in Harlem, think that this is the price, then the Scottsboro case was settled in vain.

One thing appears certain and that is that there will be few Negroes tried for rape in Alabama from now on, which is unfortunate for we were making progress until the big dailies and their Negro loving lawyers and the northern people who care not whether they be mongrel or white, interested themselves in this case.

The better element of Negroes should rise up and take this matter in hand for it is here in the South that we must settle this Negro question.

It is a moral certainity that any Negro that lays his hands on a white woman in the South is courting death and he should be taught it in his schools. As for Madison County we want no Negroes and no whites to live here that do not believe that this is fair.

Thomasville, Ga., Wkly. Times-Ent.
July 27, 1937

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The Scottsboro case continued on and the state of Alabama did not demand the murder of the participants. If they are guilty the state made a grave mistake. If they are not they should not be tried but turned loose. How it can be accomplished without serious harm to the state is a question that is worrying more people in Alabama than needs be known. The Liebowitz angle has been very grievous in their minds and the New York lawyer is liable to find himself the center of a storm of condemnation as well as eventually of abuse.

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SCOTTSBORO END SPLITS SOUTH

Times 8-1-37

While Most Papers Approve the Compromise Freeing Boys, Many Citizens Deplore It

New York

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 30.—Southern reaction to the Scottsboro case compromise is as varied as the fates meted out to the defendants. It is as varied as are present-day social, economic and political opinions in the South.

On Birmingham's downtown streets last Monday a radio interviewer found that every passer-by he halted was strongly convinced that the four Negroes who were released should have been prosecuted. But Birmingham newspapers are unanimous in praise of what was done at Decatur and in sighs of relief that Alabama is rid at last of "this body of death."

Calling of Names

Throughout the State, along with similar expressions of relief, there is a tendency to call names, to describe the case as a horrible example of the evils of outside interference and of Communist efforts to capitalise upon racial and sectional feeling.

There are criticisms, too, of those Alabamans who, some in a belief that the Scottsboro Negroes were not guilty and others in mere conviction that there had not been a fair trial, have for several years interested themselves directly in behalf of the defendants.

Outside the State, Southern comment seems generally to praise the compromise and to expect Gubernatorial clemency for the Negroes left with life or death sentences.

"In the light of its history, its bewildering inconsistencies and extraneous ramifications," says The Asheville (N. C.) Citizen "'finis' at Scottsboro and its appeasement of both sides must be acceptable to those of either faction whose doubts still linger."

Since the death sentence upon Clarence Norris is to be carried out within a few weeks unless Governor Graves commutes it, an early indication of his attitude toward this sentence and toward the life sentences of Patterson, Weems and Andy Wright is to be expected.

Whether it was contemplated in the compromise or not, the prosecution's statement releasing Roberson and Montgomery has weakened its case in public opinion against all the defendants and prepared the way for generous treatment of those remaining under sentence.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch declares that the dropping of the charges against some of the defendants "serves as a virtual clincher to the argument that all nine of the Negroes are innocent."

Interference Resented

Nowhere in the South, apparently, is there praise for the Northern groups and organizations which have interfered in the case, even though there are many here to admit that, without this interference, the defendants would have been dead and buried long ago.

"The people of Alabama," declares The Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News, "are exceedingly tired of seeing this case used as a sounding board for political bombast in the East, and as a money-raising tear-jerker for radical elements throughout the world."

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 28, 1937

The Judge Gets Photographed

JUDGE W. W. Callahan, of Scottsboro case fame, wants to know the name of the photographer who snapped his picture as he walked from the courthouse to his home in Decatur one day last week.

The judge had issued strict orders against photographers in an effort to keep the trials from being commercialized. A photographer, however, stood near a street intersection and used a tree to shield his movements. As Judge Callahan walked past, the camera clicked and the photographer quickly climbed into a passing automobile and sped away. The judge now wants to know the name of the man.

We're sorry, but we can give no clue. We can, however, assure the judge that the state appreciates the manner in which he has handled both himself and the Scottsboro case since becoming connected with it. Judge Callahan has at all times been fair and firm, and no fault can be found with the way which he has conducted this unsavory affair. He has shown himself to be a real man and a real judge, and we don't blame the photographer for wanting a picture of him.

Washington, D. C. Post
August 3, 1937

The Scottsboro Case.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Alabama should bow her head in shame and apologize to the Nation for the atrocious way in which the Scottsboro case was handled. If one can believe one-half which has been printed, there was little cause for those youths being held for trial.

A WHITE VIRGINIAN.

Washington, July 30.

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
August 2, 1937

TO EXALT BLACK HARLEM

Insofar as Alabama is concerned, the Scottsboro case is history. But the four "boys" who were liberated have gone to New York in tow of Comrade Leibowitski where they will entertain and exalt all Harlem and the Communist party.—Dothan Eagle.

Tupelo, Miss. News
August 3, 1937

LUCKY TO BE ALIVE

Those "Scottsboro" negroes, who were greeted by thousands of Harlem negroes when they arrived in New York with their attorney, Samuel Leibowitz, should thank their lucky stars that they are alive. It was a bad example, because negroes who model in such a manner. are not usually are given a royal ovation greeted in New York with the finest white women beneath the shading branches of a tall oak tree.

Scottsboro Case Splits South, Says White Writer

By JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES 2d

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Expect Clemency

"In the light of its history, its bewildering inconsistencies and extraneous ramifications," says The Ashville (N. C.) Citizen "'finis' at Scottsboro and its appeasement of both sides must be acceptable to those of either faction whose doubts still linger."

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Asheville, N. C., Times
July 27, 1937

The Scottsboro Cases

SOMEWHAT feverish welcome by Blacks and whites in New York's Pennsylvania station yesterday for the four freed Scottsboro Negro youths, and the celebration planned for Thursday evening in the Hippodrome are illustrations of what is by no means the best method of hastening the hoped-for release of the five men convicted in the case which has been fought out over the last six years.

For, while from the very first many Southerners feared that the defendants might be victims of racial animosities, the counsels of all moderates in the immediate vicinity were often drowned out by raucous protests from outsiders.

Under such circumstances, there is, as The Baltimore Sun says, all the more reason to commend the Alabama authorities for their realistic and humane re-examination of the case with the result that all charges were withdrawn against four. The original capital charge against a fifth was withdrawn after he pleaded guilty to assaulting an officer with a knife, and was sentenced to 20 years. The other four were convicted, one being sentenced to death, the others to prison terms running as high as 99 years.

The rumored compromise includes these additional terms: It was that defense appeals will be dropped, the death sentence against one will be commuted, and that possibly all the remaining prisoners can expect freedom after a few years.

The settlement inevitably confirms some of the doubts which from the first surrounded the case.

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"It's Good To Be Here"

THE BOOKSBORO BOYS seem themselves very comfortably before the fireplace in Selbowitz's office. Billy Mitchell Selbowitz, standing between his twin sons, Laurence and Robert. Helen Cy[illegible] and Mignon Jones pose with the boys. (Photos by M-M. Smith.)

Monroeville, Ala., Journal
July 29, 1937

SCOTTSBORO CASES ENDED

The people of Alabama doubtless let a sigh of relief a few days ago at the announcement that the celebrated Scottsboro cases have been disposed of. We will not have to see them on the front pages any more.

These cases have been "glorified" by the intervention of outside influences, and the process has been very expensive to the state and the counties where the trials have been held. In addition, we have received some questionable advertising abroad, where the people had no opportunity to know the facts.

At the conclusion of the trials that New York attorney who has made such a grand stand play during the years these cases have been pending took four of the defendants who were released by the court to New York with him. Of course we do not know what he expects to do with them; but our guess is that he has some plan for capitalizing them to his financial advantage.

Brunswick, Ga., News
July 29, 1937

The dramatic conclusion of the "Scottsboro case" in Alabama shows that there is no way of telling just what a jury will do with certain cases.

Statesville, N. C., Record
July 30, 1937

The Scottsboro Negroes in New York

Negroes of New York's Harlem district, and a lot of some sort of white people, are making heroes of several of the negroes who were defendants in the notorious Scottsboro case. These negroes were said to have been parties to a criminal assault committed by several negroes upon two white girls while all of them were aboard a freight train. When the trial at last was finished recently, some of the colored men who were freed were taken back to New York from Alabama where the trial took place. They were met at the Pennsylvania station in New York city by a mob which the police could not control. The mob took them in a taxicab and started them on a round of joy making and "rehabilitation" which is to include some sort of training in a vocation.

This frenzied enthusiasm upon their arrival in New York led to plans for a big celebration to be staged in the immense hippodrome. Their lawyer, Leibowitz, who accompanied them on their trip north, is taking a big part in the celebration and several characters who have made themselves conspicuous in different ways will provide the speech making at the celebration. Norman Thomas, socialist leader, is one example of the kind which is taking part in the reward for crime.

There probably is nothing to be said against taking these four negroes and giving them some sort of training which might make good citizens of them as they might have been merely victims of circumstance by being in company with the ones who conceived and committed the crime; but it might be better for them and many other negroes if they were given the "rehabilitation" without the demonstration.

Also we have little defense to offer for girls who will subject themselves to such circumstances by hoboing on freight trains; but we see no point in making heroes of negroes, or any other persons, who might take advantage of them if they are so imprudent.

A society operating under the grand title of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People could do a most commendable work in the field which their cognomen embraces; but if they propose to make heroes of possible rapists and other criminals and offer defense to them against the courts of our land; they are in a class with the Black Legion and should be dealth with as the latter was blotted out.

Some of the societies of which we know, pretending to befriend the colored race in America, and some of the publications which are catering to the negroes, are merely gouging them for money and appealing to them by spreading propaganda among them which tends to fill their minds with race equality ideas. The publications do a great deal to poison the minds of the negroes against the Southern people who really have been and are the negroes' best friends. These northern publications have a word for the South which is remindful of the Civil war name for the Yankees. It has been told jokingly that some southern people were raised to think that damned Yankee was all one word. Some of these papers which are circulated among the negroes speak of the South as "the sordid South" as though it were one word.

Some of the descendants of our former slaves deserve a great deal of credit for having developed as fast as they have in the comparatively short length of time since their forefathers were wild savages; and we believe in encouraging them to become civilized and educated; but any society which, or individual who, holds out social equality to them as a goal is doing them more harm than good and is not a true friend to them. It is not a matter of prejudice because they are black as some would have them believe. None of the races mingles on a social equality basis.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 27, 1937

Notes On The Scottsboro Case

VIVID and varied have been the reactions in Alabama to the climactic event in that case which nine negro hoboes and two transient white women dumped into the lap of this state in March, 1931. We have learned long ago that few people, either verbally or on the printed page, can discuss the Scottsboro case calmly or coolly, but just now we would like to make two or three observations, as dispassionately as possible, and ask the whys and wherefores.

First, we would like to know why the press and some officials in high places, after six and a half long years of grim determination to see the case through to the bitter end, so suddenly and completely flopped this summer. Could it have been the weather? We have no better explanation, because surely no revolutionary change in public opinion has come about, and no new evidence has been unearthed in the case. The man-in-the-street, as far as we have been able to learn, felt pretty much about the Scottsboro case on July 6, when the trials were resumed, as he did four years ago when Ruby Bates, dolled up by some newly-found Manhattan friends, dropped out of the sky to repudiate her sworn testimony.

Then, too, we would like to have someone explain to us the sudden emphasis that has been placed upon the alleged discrepancies of Mrs. Victoria Price's testimony. The I. L. D., has been attempting to impeach her testimony for more than six years, but only in recent weeks has the Alabama press joined in the campaign. Even then, only vague, unsupported charges were made, and the few tangible charges were based on the most trivial things. For instance, a stir was made over the fact that in one of her early trials she testified that she counted the negroes one by one as they leaped into the gondola car, while later she testified that she counted them after they were in the car. We might have the thing backwards. At any rate, any lawyer will tell you that such discrepancies are constantly cropping up in the court-room—and a witness is good if she makes no more serious errors than that in six and a half years.

Why, we ask, have these critics of Mrs. Price been so willing to assail her testimony and yet so patiently willing to ignore glaring discrepancies on the part of the negro defendants? Any one who reads the transcripts of the trials will be astounded to see the way they changed their stories. They started out by floundering around, right and left, each denying the crime on his own part, but some accusing the others. Later on, when the International Labor Defense had had time to do a little tutoring in the value of propaganda, the negroes flatly repudiated their earlier stories, and Haywood Patterson sang the new theme song on the witness stand: "I was framed."

no matter what defects she may have in her character.

Ruby Bates admitted that she lied—at one time or the other—and yet The News blandly passes over this confessed perjurer in an effort to impeach almost the only witness who has been consistent in her story. In the minds of a great many people, Victoria Price is at least above bribery, to lengths to tell us how inadequate was the testimony of Victoria Price, but it has neglected to point out that Mrs. Price, almost alone, has failed to make substantial alterations in her story. Ruby Bates and the negroes contradicted themselves flatly, so why does The News neglect Ruby Bates?

Arkansas.

Lynchings-1937

Legal Punishment for Rape.

5661

NEGRO IS CONDEMNED IN ATTACK ON CHILD

TEXARKANA, Ark., Sept. 13.—(AP)—A circuit court jury ordered Jessie Amos, 35-year-old negro, sentenced to death today in connection with an assault of a 14-year-old white girl here August 13.

Amos pleaded guilty to the charge and asked for mercy.

Judge Walter Bush sentenced the negro to be electrocuted at the Tucker state prison farm October 15.

Florida.

Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

5662

INDICTED FOR ATTACK.

APALACHICOLA, Fla., June 1. (AP)—Robert Hinds, negro, was indicted here today for criminal assault upon a white woman, a charge punishable by death or life imprisonment.

Negro Found Guilty In Florida Attack Case

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., July 6.—(AP)—A Circuit court jury today convicted Robert Hinds, 16-year-old negro, of attacking a white woman at Apalachicola last May.

The jury did not recommend mercy, the verdict automatically fixing the penalty at death by electrocution. Court-appointed defense attorneys said they probably would appeal the case to the state supreme court.

Sixty-one national guardsmen, armed with shotguns, rifles, tear gas and sidearms, patrolled the courthouse and surrounding sidewalks to prevent any mob violence.

There was no demonstration at any time.

Directed Acquittal Is Asked In Flogging

BARTOW, FLA., Oct. 13.—(AP)—Defense attorneys argued for a directed verdict of acquittal in the Tampa flogging trial today, maintaining there was no evidence the six accused former officers participated in the fatal whipping of Joseph E. Shoemaker.

Judge Robert T. Boswell withheld a ruling. He said he expected to review the testimony tonight.

Defense Atty. Pat Whitaker contended the State had failed to give any indication as to the identity of the men who lashed Shoemaker, Eugene F. Poulnot and Sam Rogers, associates in a labor organization, in the woods 15 miles from Tampa the night of Nov. 30, 1935.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Georgia.

5663

In 40-Minute Trial, Negro Is Convicted of Assault

Jury Reaches Verdict in Five Minutes and Death Sentence Is Passed

WAYNESBORO, Ga., May 10 (AP)—Will Hopkins, Negro, was convicted of criminal assault in a 40-minute unannounced trial here today and sentenced by Judge A. L. Franklin to death in the electric chair June 14.

The trial followed an indictment this morning. The Negro was spirited into the court house here by Burke county deputies and the trial opened with the doors to the courtroom heavily guarded.

Hopkins was convicted of criminally attacking a 38-year old farm woman April 26 and was saved from an angry crowd by two Burke county farmers a short time after the crime was committed.

The jury reached a verdict in 5 minutes.

H. C. Hatcher and E. M. Price were appointed defense attorneys and entered a plea of temporary insanity for Hopkins.

The prisoner admitted the crime and said, "I must have been crazy." He pleaded for mercy.

The two men delivered the prisoner into hands of officers who lodged him in the Savannah jail. Immediately after the trial Hopkins was spirited away to an unannounced destination by county officers.

Judge Franklin commended the citizens of the county and the two men who "captured" Hopkins from a road repair crew to save him from an angry mob, saying a "crisis had probably been averted."

"Do you say that your hens 'sit' or 'set'?" asked the precise pedagog of the busy housewife.

"It never matters to me what I say," was the quick reply. "What concerns me is to learn, when I hear the hen cackling, whether she is laying or lying."

Attacker Gets 20 Years

DUBLIN, Ga., May 7, — (AP) — Levy Rozier, 35-year-old farmer, was convicted today of criminally assaulting an 11-year-old girl. He was sentenced to serve 20 years in prison. The jury, which recommended mercy, deliberated almost a day after hearing a defense plea of insanity.

NEGRO DOOMED TO DIE FOR ASSAULT IN BURKE

WAYNESBORO, Ga., May 10.—(AP)—Will Hopkins, negro, was convicted of criminal assault in a 40-minute unannounced trial here today and sentenced by Judge A. L. Franklin to death in the electric chair June 14. The trial followed an indictment this morning.

Hopkins was convicted of criminally attacking a 38-year-old farm woman April 26.

Columbia, S. C. State
May 19, 1937

MENACED BY THE MOB.

A "surprise 33 minute trial of a Negro accused of attacking a white woman" in Burke County, Georgia, with a resultant sentence to death, brought forth a protest and warning from the Rev. John E. Hines, rector of St. Paul's Episcopal church of Augusta.

In the church bulletin, the rector spoke of "an outrageous" condition in his state and continued:

"If the organized forces of prejudice and racial hatred can produce such tremors in our courts, with what shall we combat them?

"Surely this is an indictment which the church, as well as the courts, must face. . . . We need the leaven of intelligent interest in the channels of human relationships."

The Associated Press dispatch, referring to the rector's statements in the bulletin, said he "did not criticize the court for its handling of the case, but the conditions that had caused the unannounced trial. Those conditions are not specified, but they may be readily inferred. The plain inference is that because of the fear or menace of mob action, if the mob were given time to act, the Law, in its majesty, hurriedly and without publicity, staged a trial for criminal assault, completed the trial in 33 minutes and so beat the mob to a death sentence.

But by such proceedings is the law vindicated? Certainly it is not. For the Law should not be overawed by the menace of the Mob. If there is overawing to be done it is the proper part of Law, in any civilized government to overawe the mob.

It is quite probable the accused was guilty and if so he had incurred and merited the extreme penalty. But as neither a sheriff nor his deputies can with honor to themselves nor, regard for their sworn duty, surrender a prisoner to a mob, however heinous the crime or certain his guilt, neither can a court, with obligation to its dignity and majesty, be dominated in its actions by fear of a mob. That is not civilized government.

The accused should have been tried according to law and custom, if a thousand Georgia soldiers had been necessary to protect the majesty of the law and save it from contempt.

NEW HEARING FOR WRIGHT ORDERED

Grant Park Employe Saved From Chair Four Times

FATE IMPENDS

Superior Judge E. Davis, Saturday, ordered a new trial hearing for Will Wright, former Grant Park Zoo employe, who was sentenced to the electric chair for the alleged criminal attack on a white girl May 8, 1936.

Hearing on Wright's motion for a new trial was set for Saturday morning, 9 o'clock, January 22, 1938, in Decatur, Georgia.

Following instructions from the Supreme Court of Georgia, Judge Davis signed the extraordinary motion presented to him Saturday morning by Attorney Frank A. Bowers, legal representative for Wright.

Judge Davis' signature on the papers automatically stays Wright's execution.

The same appeal papers were presented to Judge Davis in June of this year but he refused to grant a new trial and refused to sign the papers which would have meant a further appeal of the case. Wright immediately appealed to the Supreme Court of Georgia for a stay of execution, which was granted, and he asked that Judge Davis be forced to sign the appeal application. November 11, 1937, the Supreme Court of Georgia handed down a decision in which Judge Davis was ordered to sign the application of Wright for a new trial.

According to Frank A. Bowers, attorney for Wright, no one appeared for the Solicitor General's office at the hearing Saturday morning and Judge Davis read a letter from Assistant Solicitor General J. Walter LeCraw who stated that, after a careful study of the Supreme Court's decision in the matter, he felt that any further resistance of the new trial application was "nugatory." Mr. LeCraw suggested that the matter be set for a hearing at which time the State might "consent to a new trial for Wright without further appeals."

Br. Bowers stated that he was confident that a new trial would be granted his client "by consent" on January 22nd and that he was now preparing for the retrial of Wright probably in February. He pointed out that, should a new trial not be granted at the next hearing, the Supreme Court, in the decision of November 11, unqualifiedly concedes Wright a new trial in event the case comes back before that Court.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape

Georgia

5664

Lack of Negroes As Jurors Basis Of Plea for Life

A parallel of the famous Scottsboro case developed in Fulton superior court yesterday afternoon when defense attorneys for Will Wright under death sentence for a statutory offense, filed a habeas corpus attacking the Georgia jury system.

Conviction of Wright has been sustained by the state supreme court and he was resentenced to the electric chair yesterday afternoon by Judge James C. Davis. Date for the electrocution was set for April 16 at Milledgeville.

The habeas corpus hearing was scheduled for April 10 in Judge Davis' chambers in Decatur.

Defense Attorneys Frank A. Bowers and J. B. Simmons, in the petition, attack the jury system that allows the names of white jurors to be placed in the jury box on white slips of paper and the names of negroes on yellow slips, alleging this is for discriminatory purposes.

"Petitioner shows that on the 15th day of May, 1936, he was allegedly indicted by the alleged grand jury of Fulton county, Georgia, for the alleged offense of rape."

It is contended this was not a true grand jury in that negroes were not accorded a fair chance at being drawn on the jury. The petitioner further charges a violation of the 14th amendment of the United States constitution.

MELTON AND NEGRO PAY DEATH PENALTY

Both Calm at Execution in Milledgeville; Lacey Admits Murders.

5-22-37

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., May 21. (AP)—Leaving behind oral and written protestations of innocence, Eli Melton was electrocuted here today on a charge of criminally assaulting a young woman in February, 1936.

The 29-year-old Columbus man, who was convicted of attacking the girl while covering her masculine escort with a pistol, was fearful he might be unnerved in the death chamber and left a note with prison Chaplain Carl W. Minor.

"I, Eli Melton," the note read, "I myself am dying innocent and leave heart aches and pains behind me. May God bless all that accuse me of the crime, for I hold no ill will against anyone."

His last frantic appeals to the state supreme court and Governor Rivers were fruitless.

"You are killing an innocent man," he told attendants just before they slipped a white death mask over his face.

A few minutes later—at 10:07 a. m. (Atlanta time), 1,400 volts of electricity surged through his body. He was pronounced dead at 10:14 a. m.

A Cook county negro, Will Lacey, convicted of the murder of two negro women, followed Melton to the chair, and was pronounced dead at 10:29 a. m.

Unusually composed, he said, "I ask all of you to meet me in heaven."

Lacey, in his last statement, said, "I am guilty, but I did it to try to save my life."

Melton, who spent his last two hours of life talking with his father, E. E. Melton, appeared calm when he entered the death chamber.

The first white man sent to the electric chair from Muscogee county, Melton recived the sentence of death four times during his legal fight against the assault charge. His father asserted Melton was home the night the crime was committed. The body was taken to Columbus for burial.

THE LAWS DELAY

Three years ago Eli Melton, of Columbus, was arrested as the perpetrator of a series of particularly atrocious crimes. Yesterday he paid his delayed debt to justice in the electric chair at Milledgeville.

The history of the Melton case provides startling evidence of the delays of American court procedure. Not in its final outcome, to be sure, but in the unnecessary delays which serve no good purpose and which levy a heavy burden upon the taxpayers.

Melton was accused, not of one crime, but of a series. He was twice tried, twice convicted and twice sentenced to death. His appeals were carried, repeatedly, to the supreme court and the former Governor of the state granted several respites on the plea of "new evidence," made by Melton's attorneys. That "new evidence," was insufficient to persuade the court to grant a third trial.

For three years Melton lived at the expense of the state. How much his first and second trials and the series of appeals cost the state can never be computed. Defenders of the present court system will find it difficult to condone the long delay and needless expense in the Melton case.

It is such juggling with the technicalities of the law which causes the frequent "traffic jams" on the court dockets. It is because of repeated hearings in individual cases that makes it necessary for Fulton county, for instance, to maintain a whole group of courts, with their multiple judges, officials, attendants and expense.

The ends of justice could have been served just as well, in the Melton case, had the final chapter been written three months after the arrest, instead of three years. Greater speed and less legal red tape would result, also, in a salutary increase in respect for the courts by criminals.

NEGRO IS DENIED NEW TRIAL HERE

Davis Turns Down Plea for Wright.

Will Wright, under death sentence for a capital offense against a minor white girl at Grant Park zoo, yesterday afternoon was denied an extraordinary motion for a new trial. The hearing was before Judge James C. Davis.

Defense counsel said they will ask the supreme court for a mandamus order compelling Judge Davis to review what they claim is newly-discovered evidence. They claimed yesterday their client's constitutional rights had been abridged in that a trial juror had been sentenced for a felony offense, thus disqualifying him to serve.

The solicitor general's office contended that was insufficient evidence for a new trial and Judge Davis sustained the argument.

GEORGIA SUPREME COURT ORDERS JUDGE DAVIS TO SIGN NECESSARY PAPERS

Attorney Frank Bowers Wins Point For A New Trial Of Ex-Grant Park Worker Under Death Sentence For 'Attack'

CASE VOID ON DISQUALIFICATION

The Supreme Court of Georgia Friday virtually conceded that Will Wright, ex-Grant Park zoo worker under death sentence, will be granted a new trial.

In a lengthy decision written by Mr. Justice Bell and concurred in by the five other justices, the high court held that the trial judge, Hon. James C. Davis, had erred in refusing to sign such papers as would have allowed Wright a second appeal of his case. They ordered the trial judge to now sign all necessary papers to bring the case back to the Supreme Court for another review.

Frank A. Bowers, attorney for Wright, told a representative of The WORLD Friday that there was now not doubt in his mind that Wright will be granted a new trial. He have just returned from the Supreme Court chambers where I read the entire decision. The court very plainly ruled that we had presented sufficient grounds to demand a new trial for Wright. It is just a matter of time now to get the record of the case back before the high court.

The attorney further pointed out that the decision settles the question of whether an ex-convict white juror is qualified to sit on the jury in the trial of a person of color. This being the first time the point has ever been raised in the State of Georgia, the State Supreme Court Friday ruled that such a juror was disqualified and any verdict participated in by him was void.

The Wright case has been one of the hardest fought legal battles waged in Atlanta in years. A World War Veteran and employee of the Grant Park zoo for 18 years, Wright was arrested May 8, 1936 and charged with criminal assault upon a young white girl. He has steadfastly maintained his innocence and after a two-day trial in Fulton Superior Court in June 1936, he was found guilty and sentenced to electrocution.

An appeal to the Supreme Court blocked the execution and in December 1936 the Supreme Court denied a new trial. Wright was again sentenced to the chair in March 1937. A 30-day respite by Governor Rivers stayed the death penalty and in the meantime, the State Prison Commission and Governor Rivers declined to interfere with the execution.

Brought back before Judge Davis again in May 1937 Wright heard the death sentence for the third time for June 1937. On the morning set for the execution Attorney Bowers presented evidence to Judge Davis that one of the trial jurors convicting Wright had served two terms for larcenies of automobiles and the attorney demanded that Judge Davis grant a new trial. The judge declined to grant a new

trial but did order the execution held up until he could investigate the charges. The order of a stay of execution reached the warden at Milledgeville just eight minutes before Wright was to die and after his head had been shaved in preparation for the death march.

The prisoner was returned to Fulton Tower from the death cell, this being his second trip to Milledgeville.

Within about two weeks and after a further hearing, Judge Davis announced that he would not grant Wright a new trial nor would he sign any papers necessary for a further appeal of the case. He ordered Wright brought back before him and imposed the extreme penalty for the fourth time.

Early in July, 1937, and a few days before the last scheduled execution date Attorney Bowers appeared before the Supreme Court of Georgia with a 132 page writ of mandamus in which he asked the high court to order Judge Davis sign such papers as would grant his client another review of his case.

On July 6 1937 the Supreme Court ordered the execution stayed until further notice and, at the same time, ordered Judge Davis to appear before them and explain why he refused Wright another review. On the appointed day the judge appeared with forces from the Solicitor General's office and filed written explanations of his actions.

The decision of the Supreme Court Friday held that Judge Davis should have granted the application for an appeal and ordered him to sign such papers as are necessary to send the case back to them on appeal. They also ordered any further execution sentences stayed until a final decision was rendered by them.

Wright has remained in Fulton Tower during more than eighteen months of legal maneuverings. During his long incarceration several colored churches ad organizations have assisted in his fight by voluntary donations.

ATTACK CASE HEARD IN COURT

Ice Man Accused Of High Crime; Jury Locked In Talk

CLAIM LYNCHING

A Fulton County jury Monday night debated the fate of Theodore Taylor, 32-year-old ice man of a Lee street address, accused of making criminal assault on a white woman, November 2, in Colonial Hills.

The jury retired at 5:30 p. m. following a trial that lasted all day. At 6:30 oclock Monday night, the jurors were reported in a deadlock.

Taylor was indicted by a Fulton County grand jury November 12 on three charges: robbery, criminal assault, and attempted criminal assault.

The defendant was accused of robbing and having carnal knowledge with a white woman on the night of November 2. The third indictment charged him with attempting criminal assault on another white woman on the night of November 7.

Taylor was tried only for the criminal assault charge, but the other two charges were reviewed as means of attempting to establish identity of the alleged attacker.

The state contended that both crimes were staged at the same spot in Colonial Hills. Assistant Solicitor E. E. Andrews prosecuted, and Attorney Russell Turner represented the defendant.

NEGROES KEPT OUT

Presiding Judge Lee B. Wyatt would not allow, colored people to hear testimony presented during the trial. All colored persons in the courtroom at beginning of the trial were ordered out.

Both of the white women victims identified Taylor as their attacker. Taylor was arrested shortly after the last Colonial Hills attack when police jailed a man wearing a "a light cap and brown coat." Both of the women had said that their attacker was wearing this type of apparel.

The defense attempted to prove that the state had made a mistake in identity. Witnesses and Taylor himself, testified that on the night of Nov. 2 he attended a birthday party, and one the night of Nov. 7, he was at the home of a friend.

Testimony showed that Taylor was arrested on Lee street near his home. He is married and the father of two children.

LYNCHING REPORT

Although not repeated on the stand, witnesses and other interested parties added strength to a recent lynching rumor.

The parties who spoke of the lynching said they had heard a man was lynched was in connection with the attack case tried Monday in Superior Criminal court.

First report of a lynching near Ben Hill and East Point was received by the Atlanta Daily World on November 10. Effort was made to confirm the report, but it could not be made authentic.

CHAIR IS ASKED

The prosecution asked the electric chair for Taylor. The presiding judge explained that should the jury find Taylor guilty and recommend mercy, a sentence of one to 20 years could be given.

Missouri.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape

5665

ATTACK HEARING SET

Negro Piano Player Accused By Missouri Woman

CARUTHERSVILLE, Mo., March 16.—Preliminary hearing for Abraham Ray, 30, negro, held in jail here on attempted assault, was been set for Thursday before Justice L. C. White, of Braggadocio. The negro was ordered held without bond.

The victim charged that the negro last Saturday night accosted her, grabbed her by the shoulders and told her to go [illegible] She screamed, bringing her husband and others into the house, causing the negro to flee.

The negro was acting as a piano player for a country dance at a rural home at the time, and, according to witnesses, was drunk.

Lynchings-1937
6
Legal Punishment for Rape

Maryland

5666

Rencher Gill Acquitted in Rockville Court of Attack On Chevy Chase Woman

Tribune 5-8-37
Washington, D. C.

District and Montgomery County Police Flayed for "So-Called" Confessions of Officers

VERDICT RETURNED IN LESS THAN 10 MINUTES

Testimony Proves That Man is Mentally Deficient, Rated as 10-Year-Old

By GARLAND MACKEY

ROCKVILLE, Md.—Playing on so-called confession obtained by Washington police, Judge Harmond Urner, presiding over the court here last Tuesday, dismissed a charge of criminal assault against Rencher Lee Gill who was on trial for allegedly raping two white women last March in Chevy Chase, Md.

The verdict of the three judges was reached in less than ten minutes. The spectators in the Montgomery Courthouse were warned against making any demonstration regardless of what the outcome might be.

There was hardly a sound as Judge Urner read the opinion of the three judges. His associates were Judge Charles Woodward and Judge Arthur Willard. Robert Pugh, State's Attorney, represented the county.

Women's Testimony Secret

The trial began Monday behind closed doors. The public and press were excluded. The first testimony was that of Bertrig Wolter, white Chevy Chase woman, who claimed that she was attacked November 7 by a light-skinned man with a handkerchief over his face.

The testimony of Lillian Riley, the second victim, was taken on Tuesday in the chambers. Her statement was that she was attacked on March 4 by a light-complexioned man who apologized after the alleged attack. Neither woman postively identified Gill as the man who assaulted them.

Judge Urner in his opinion said the prosecution was based entirely on the "so-called confessions obtained by District and Montgomery County police and the court doubted the credulity of the statements secured by the officers. The court also stated that the officers themselves doubted the truth of the confessions.

Mentally Deficient

A dozen or more defense witnesses testified that Gill was mentally deficient and the court said the man had the mental rating of a boy 10 years of age.

The court stressed the fact that the confession was more of a broad general statement and did not go into details as to how he reached the scene of the crime. When faced with the women Gill denied he attacked them and said he was sorry if he did.

Gill established a "perfect" alibi for the March 4 attack when several witnesses stated that they saw him the night of the assault at his home during the hours in which the alleged assault took place. The second case against him was nolle prossed.

"Perfect" Alibi

Lester Pearson, 1154 Nineteenth Street, Northwest, testified that Gill was at his home about 9 p.m. March 4 and left there a few minutes later. Mrs. Francis Tucker who lives at the Gill home, 2148 L Street, Northwest, said that Rencher came home about 9:30 and after doing certain work around the house he went to his room on the third floor where he retired. She said it would have been impossible for him to have left without her knowledge.

Mrs. Tucker said she remembered the incident because she asked Rencher about viewing the body of a friend, Reginald Bushrod, whose body was at the undertaking establishment of L. E. Murray and Sons, 2105 Twelfth Street Northwest. Rencher said he was unable to go, she said, as it was too far to walk and he did not have carefare.

Milton Harper, 1908 Eighth Street, testified that he met Rencher on the night of March 4 at Twenty-first and L Street and received a note from him directing Harper to do some work for Mrs. Rebecca Lewis in the 1400 block of R Street.

Placed in District

Samuel Smith, 57 O Street, stated that Gill worked for him at times, washing windows and on the day of the assault was working at a house at Forty-sixth and Yuma Streets.

A number of witnesses testified to the mental deficiency of Gill. The first was a former teacher, Miss Helen Z. Alexander who taught Gill in 1917. She said that as a youth of 16 he had the mental capacity of a boy of 6. She said she also gave him private lessons, but he was mentally backward. He never progressed further than the third grad, she said. He was taught by the power of suggestion and by constant repetition, the witness said.

Dr. Arthur Kiger Savoy, first assistant superintendent of schools, produced the school record of Gill showing that he had difficulty in mastering the most simple subjects although his deportment, was good as a student.

Character Witnesses

A number of character witnesses testified as to the man's reputation in his community.

Among these were Dr. Walter H. Brooks, pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church of which Gill and his family are members; Mrs. Lillian Fitzhugh, a teacher; Dr. Samuel M. Pierre, a neighbor and friend of the family; the Rev. George A. Parker, assistant pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, and Mrs. Millie Butler, grandmother of the man. Mrs. Butler testified that at one time she was employed by Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt and former President Theodore Roosevelt.

Gill who is the son of Dr. Lee A. Gill, prominent Georgetown physician, was represented by Austin Canfield. The defense congratulated the court for the fair and impartial trial during the two days.

Little Interest Shown

Despite the fact that there was some talk of mob violence when Gill was first taken to Rockville, the natives of this small town showed little interest in the trial. Less than 25 white persons were in the court room the second day when the verdict was rendered. A number of colored persons from Washington were present, but few from Rockville.

The first and only incident to cause a ripple among the few spectators was when this reporter entered the courtroom and sat on a front seat in front of several white men. One white man told him to move to the colored section to the left, but was told that he was quite satisfied where he was. Several balifs began to whisper and one came over and directed the reporter to the Negro section. This officer of the court was also told that the seat was quite satisfactory.

Satisfied With Seat

A buzz ran through the room and the reporter was invited outside in the corridor. Here it was explained that where he was sitting was reserved for whites despite the fact that the bailif was told that the reporter did not object sitting with white persons and was contented to remain, unless some press accomodations could be arranged.

A compromise was reached when the reporter was directed to a seat in front of the colored section near the bench.

Gill was congratulated by friends and acquaintances following his acquittal and his attorney, Canfield also received the plaudits of the man's family and many persons present.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

North Carolina.

5667

White Woman Says She May Be Mistaken

Asks Court To Spare Alleged Assailant From Gas Chamber

4-17-37

RALEIGH, N. C.— (ANP) — Because Mrs. Sarah Lyles, white, has since decided she is not positive that he is the right man, Charles Smith will not die in the lethal gas chamber April 30 but instead must spend his life in prison.

Smith, charged with breaking into her room and trying to attack her, was convicted on the testimony of Mrs. Lyles and her 14-year-old son, Clarence. His conviction and sentence of death was appealed to the state supreme court and upheld. Immediately the woman signed a statement saying:

"I hereby respectfully request that you do not allow Charles Smith to die in the lethal gas chamber. . . This request is made because, since the trial, I have considered the matter seriously and I believe he should not be put to death. There is a possibility that there was a mistake made in the identification of my assailant."

The change in sentence was ordered by Governor Hoey.

NEGRO, 37, IS DOOMED FOR ATTACK ON WOMAN

STATESVILLE, N. C., Aug. 3.—(AP)—A superior court jury convicted [illegible] Caldwell, 37-year-old negro, of rape at his trial late today on a charge of criminally assaulting the wife of a white Iredell county farmer.

The verdict was brought in after about 30 minutes deliberation.

Judge J. A. Rousseau, of North Wilkesboro, sentenced Caldwell to death in the gas chamber at Raleigh, September 10. Counsel for the defendant gave notice of intention to appeal.

Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
August 5, 1937

RAPIST TO FORFEIT LIFE

The quick arrest and trial of Walter Caldwell, negro rapist, was handled in such a manner that mob violence on the part of Iredell citizens was at no time in evidence except perhaps Saturday afternoon when the entire countryside was searching every conceivable hiding place for the culprit. The negro was already in the hands of competent authorities who took the precaution to hide him in safety until his case could be brought up for speedy trial. A jury of twelve men tried and true, found him guilty upon the evidence submitted to the court, and Judge Rousseau pronounced the sentence of death. The deed was committed Saturday afternoon and Tuesday the negro was sent to death row in Raleigh to await the forfeiting of his life for a deed most repulsive, which brought humiliation to a splendid woman and sorrow to the family of her loved ones. It has been a rule in North Carolina that rapists get what's coming to them, either by common law route or through the established courts, whichever happens to get the perpetrator first. In the case of "Preacher" Caldwell, the rightful and due process of trial by jury prevailed.

White Spectator Attacks Youth In Dixie Courtroom

Judge Dismisses Jury Venire and Orders Attacker Jailed — Armed Troops Called To Keep Order.

Courier

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N-!

MARION, N. C., Sept. 16 —(Special)—When Mann Smith is for the second time, placed on trial here Monday, National Guard troops or a detail from the State Highway Patrol will be one hand to prevent a repetition of the attack on the prisoner which occurred Tuesday shortly after his first trial opened.

MARION, N. C., Sept. 16—(By Albert Jones for ANP) —Apparently unable to get to the youth elsewhere, Frank Anderson, white plumber walked into McDowell superior court Tuesday and used an iron pipe to vent his lynch spirit upon the head of Mann Smith, charged with raping a 12 year old white girl.

Anderson was arrested immediately and lodged in court on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, interfering with the administration of justice, and contempt of court. Judge Felix E. Alley called upon Governor Clyde R. Hoey to send either the national guard or the stath eighway patrol in order to see that Smith "gets a fair trial" and dismissed the venire of 100 men from whom a jury was about to be drawn when the attack took place.

Six jurors had been selected when Anderson walked into the courtroom, strolled down the center aisle with an iron pipe, about 15 inches long and one and a half inches in diameter, concealed behind his back. The prisoner was seated beside his attorney just inside the bar, near the aisle.

The white man walked to a point behind the youth, raised his weapon and struck three blows. Smith was hit once, a glancing lick not hard enough to shatter the skin on the back of his head.

"Get that man — protect the prisoner," shouted Judge Alley from the bench as Sheriff Grady Nichols lunged for the assailant. Smith was knocked under the table in the melee which resulted in Anderson's arrest.

Judge Allen delivered a scathing attack on the attacker, terming the incident "the greatest disgrace that could befall McDowell county. Tomorrow morning every paper north of the Mason and Dixon line will have box car letters that 'Mob Rule Reigns in North Carolina.'

Highway patrolmen stood guard in this lynch-minded community to see that Smith got a "fair trial." However, proceedings were orderly and in perfect contrast with the earlier arrangement when Frank Anderson, white plumber, attacked the boy with an iron pipe.

A mistrial was declared, Judge Alley asked for troops and Anderson was arrested and lodged in jail where he faces charges of contempt of court and assault with intent to murder.

As the trial began Monday, John Anderson of Old Fort was among those summoned for jury duty. He was the first Negro called in this county since Reconstruction. But Solicitor Ridings preemptorily dismissed him without cause and 12 white men were chosen to hear the case.

An Example

In his speech while pronouncing sentence, Judge Alley told the boy, "You are a colored man belonging to a different race. You are a human being. Your days are numbered and soon for you the mysteries of life will be merged into the mysteries of death. May God grant that your punishment will be an example for all races and especially the young men of your race."

White reporters who interviewed textile workers and laborers before the second trial began found lynch sentiment was rife and Anderson, the plumber was praised. D. A. Fox, white mill hand, said, "Anderson was trying to kill him, all right, and he waould have if he had got in a good lick. I hope he gets out of it light."

Shuford Clonce, another mill worker, said, "Forty men joined up to 'get' that Negro, but backed out all except Anderson. They would all chip in a dollar now to help him get out."

BOY, ATTACKED IN COURTROOM, GETS DEATH

Call

Youth, Hit With Iron Pipe During Trial, to Die in Electric Chair

9-24-37

MARION, N. C.—(ANP) —Mann Smith, 15, attacked in court eight days previously by a one-man mob, Tuesday was sentenced by Judge Felix E. Alley to die in the gas chamber at Raleigh on October 15.

Newton, N. C., News-Enterprise
September 10, 1937

VIOLENCE IN COURT

A negro on trial in Marion on charges of assaulting a white school girl was struck on the head with an iron pipe by a spectator in McDowell county court Tuesday morning, which resulted in temporarily stopping the wheels of justice, and necessitating a court recess and a new trial.

While the zeal of the spectator who attempted to take the administration of justice in his own hands is understandable, it is not so easy to follow the working of his mind as to the success of his procedure.

It was deemed advisable by the presiding judge to have the prisoner on trial removed to Asheville for safe-keeping until the trial should be resumed, and to petition the Governor for national guardsmen to insure order when the trial is resumed on Monday.

The News-Enterprise has consistently asserted that any form of violence that attempts to judge and punish any suspected criminal is a gross miscarriage of justice, and those responsible for such acts should be punished accordingly. The presiding judge in this instance is to be commended for his actions which should avert any other outbreak in a situation that must have been tense, and could have led to more serious consequences. One distressing feature of mob rule is that the minds of those participating apparently cease to function and the group is led on in a frenzy of excitement, and an occurence such as that in this particular trial might easily have led to a situation difficult to control.

Sept-9-1937

PIPE 'EM DOWN.

The Daily News' catch-as-catch-can legal department hastens to affirm without equivocation Judge Felix Alley's citation of Plumber Frank Anderson, who invaded Judge Alley's courtroom and hit a negro defendant over the head with an iron pipe, for contempt of court. We think, however, that charges of assault with intent to kill, or even secret assault, might also be preferred and even sentences might be imposed on Anderson to compensate in some part the outraged decency of the entire citizenship as well as salving the dignity of the court.

Too, we are not averse to fetching some national guardsmen to insure a fair trial of the negro when he is re-arraigned. Indeed, we should not have objected to the use of the militia at the outset. Marion is no worse than many another North Carolina community, but it has shown aforetime that it is no better as regards a willingness to take the law into its own hands.

Ordinarily we should have said that a sheriff might easily have insured the safety of his prisoner; but the present circumstances incline us to sympathy with Sheriff Grady Nichols. How was he to know that the plumber was carrying a piece of iron pipe for purpose of deadly assault? It might have been that Plumber Anderson had called to see something about rest-room appurtenances and appliances in need of repair.

But, more seriously, we do think that prisoners at the bar in cases charging rape should be so safeguarded as to make piecemeal execution of them by private parties impossible.

A fine time to provide against contempt in a crowded courtroom is before the court is declared open for business. We somehow doubt if God exercises Himself to save an honorable court which permits spectators to mass themselves in the midst of the assemblage. Well do we realize that it is the people's court, but while freemen not under indictment should be permitted to approach even the bench without fear and trembling, no pushing, scrouging or jamming should be tolerated.

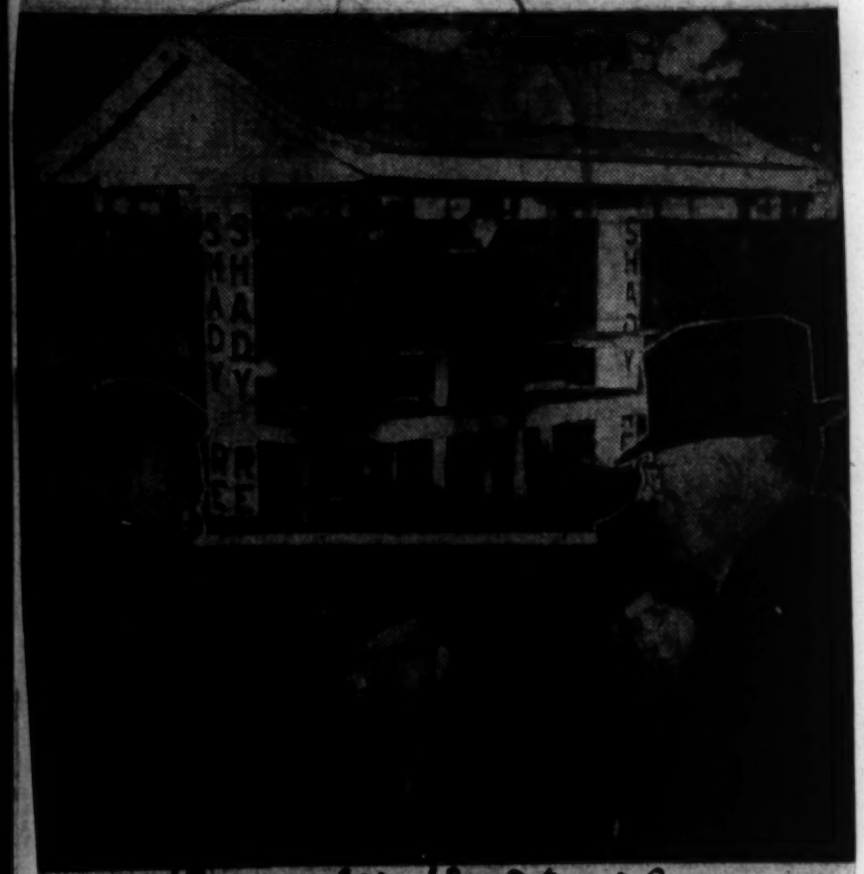
In such a mannerly courtroom a case of secret assault would be unthinkable.

Ohio

Lynchings - 1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

5668

ON TRIAL IN PICNIC GROVE



Fearing mob reprisals at New Philadelphia, Ohio, if the trial of Vandy Lee Matheus, 19, accused of assault and rape, were held in ordinary fashion, authorities spirited Matheus away to a picnic grove (shown at top), where Judge E. E. Lindsay heard the case. Matheus was given three to thirty years.—International News photo.

Lynchings—1937
6
Legal Punishment for Rape

Tennessee

5669

DEATH WILL BE ASKED FOR NEGRO ATTACKERS

Pair Transferred From Marion Jail To Tucker Farm Pending Trial

Two Memphis negroes charged with criminally assaulting Miss Maple Wilson, 18, of 477 Richmond on Christmas night were transferred yesterday by Crittenden County, Ark., officials to Tucker Prison Farm.

District Attorney Bruce Ivy of Osceola said last night that the negroes "will be given speedy justice and the state will ask the death penalty." Thursday or Friday of next week is set as the date of the trial at Marion.

"I have filed a criminal information charge of criminal assault against the two negroes and the bench warrant has been issued. Since they have admitted their guilt, it will not be served on them until the day of the trial. The negroes will be given an opportunity to employ defense counsel. If they do not retain an attorney, the state will furnish one," he said.

Special Court Planned

The trial will be held at a special session of the Circuit Court at Marion next week with Judge Neil Killough of Wynne, Ark., on the bench.

District Attorney Ivy explained that the criminal information charge takes the place of a grand jury indictment. A special jury venire may be called.

A conference of Crittenden County officers was held at Marion yesterday afternoon to complete plans for handling the trial.

Miss Wilson's condition was improved yesterday, her physician said. However, she will be unable to leave St. Joseph's Hospital for the next week or 10 days, he said.

The negroes, Theo Thomas, 25, and Frank Carter, alias Buster, 26, both of 168 California, are in the Marion jail. Both negroes confessed the attack, Sheriff Curlin announced Sunday following their arrest.

Were In Parked Car

Miss Wilson and her companion, F. E. Brading, 21, of Jonesboro, Ark., were parked in his car on the road leading off Harahan Viaduct to the United States Engineers depot about 9:30 o'clock Saturday night, they told officers. The negroes with drawn knives forced their way into the car and drove it off the road into the bottom lands north of the viaduct.

Young Brading escaped to summon aid at the Engineers depot. The negroes attacked Miss Wilson who was found almost five hours later northwest of Briark Junction. Thomas was arrested early Sunday morning walking along the viaduct. Carter was arrested later by Memphis deteotives.

2 Negroes Held For Assault On Memphis Girl

Escort Flees For Aid After Fighting With Pair

12-27-37

MEMPHIS, TENN., Dec. 26.—(AP)—Sheriff Howard Curlin of Crittenden County, Arkansas, announced at noon today the arrest of two young negroes who, he said, confessed they criminally assaulted [illegible] last night after holding up her and her escort on an Arkansas highway.

"We arrested Theo Thomas, alias 'Tender,' at Memphis today," Sheriff Curlin said. "Frank Carter, alias 'Buster' was turned over to us last night by a State police officer after he was caught by a citizen.

"Both are held in jail at Marion, Ark. They will be charged with criminal assault.

Because of the time of the attacks and the quick arrests, officers said there was no hint of violence. A quick prosecution, with a death penalty demand, was promised by prosecuting officials.

Sheriff Curlin said the victim said both negroes had been drinking. He quoted the negroes as saying they stopped the automobile intent on robbery. He said the victim, an 18-year-old Memphis girl, now in a hospital identified both the negroes.

The girl was dragged from the automobile of her companion, F. E. Brading, 21, Jonesboro, Ark., at 9:30 p.m. She was found at 2:20 a.m., by officers and a posse of 50 men.

The couple was parked on an Arkansas highway when the negroes accosted them. Brading fought the negroes and escaped to summon aid at the nearby U. S. engineers' depot across the Mississippi River from Memphis.

The girl kicked off her shoes, dropped her wrist watch and tore shreds from her clothing to leave a trail for searchers to follow.

She was under treatment for bruises, abrasions, shock and fright. She told officers one of the negroes had a gun and threatened her with death unless she submitted.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment for Rape.

Virginia
6

5670

SCENE OF SPEEDY JUSTICE

The Middlesex County courthouse and jail (left background) at Saluda, Va., where John Dykes was first held and later sentenced last week for an alleged attempted criminal assault upon a 20-year-old white girl. Only five days elapsed between his arrest and his sentence to life's imprisonment. Doubt as to his sanity and the girl's plea for mercy because she was doubtful of his actual intentions when he accosted and beat her saved Dykes from the electric chair. He was attached to a transient camp near Saluda and said he came from Alabama. He was rushed to Richmond immediately after his arrest and again after sentence was pronounced to forestall threatened violence. (Journal and Guide Photo)

Alabaman Is Given Life In Saluda Trial

Saved From Chair By Mercy Plea Of His Victim

2-6-37

By ALBERT L. HINTON

SALUDA, Va.—Five days after his arrest for attempted criminal assault upon a pretty 20-year-old relative of a former Virginia governor, John Dykes began serving a life sentence this week instead of awaiting an electirc chair death because the victim, uncertain of his actual intentions and his sanity, pleaded that mercy be shown him.

Dykes had been rushed to Richmond to avoid possible mob violence immediately after his arrest and again after sentence had been pronounced Wednesday.

Sheriff R. B. Segar, who carried the prisoner to Richmond, said a crowd had gathered around the Saluda lockup. Although he had no trouble in getting the accused man away, he feared mob violence and moved the prisoner to Richmond.

Following a conference between defense and prosecution counsel, Dykes entered a plea of guilty. A sanity commission Tuesday night pronounced him legally sane, but Commonwealth's Attorney Louis Jones told Journal and Guide reporters Wednesday that he was "undoubtedly of unbalanced mind."

This circumstance and his victim's mercy plea were largely responsible for his escape from the electric chair.

Dykes, who was arrested here late Saturday afternoon, was a 32-year-old worker at the Middlesex County transient camp.

Sentence was pronounced by Judge J. Boyd Sears in Middlesex County Circuit Court after the plea agreement reached between Commonwealth's Attorney Jones, T. H. Kenningham, white court-appointed defense counsel of West Point, and J. Byron Hopkins, Jr., attorney representing the Richmond branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The young woman involved requested that the death penalty be withheld because she would "never get over it." A similar request was also made by the girl's family, Mr. Jones said.

Dykes approached her with a bouquet of flowers in his hand, the complaining witness related. In the semi-darkness she thought it was someone who was bringing flowers out of sympathy for the death of a prominent relative, she explained.

Dykes, a native of Alabama, was formerly at the transient camp at Fort Eustis, Va. According to Commonwealth's Attorney Jones, the accused man hailed the young woman as she was driving along Route 17, just outside the town limits of Saluda. When she halted for a stop sign, according to the commonwealth's attorney, Dykes jumped on the machine and asked why she didn't stop the first time he called her.

RUSHED TO RICHMOND

The girl's screams as Dykes choked her and grabbed her by the hair, brought three men in a nearby filling station to her rescue, according to the story. Dykes was placed under arrest but soon afterwards rushed to Henrico County jail in Richmond for "safe keeping" when threats were made against his life.

Speaking of the "friendly relations" existing between the races in Middlesex County, Mr. Jones said that no such attempt had ever been made by a native of the county.

An almost similar incident occurred twelve years ago, he said, in which a nine-year-old colored girl employed as a companion for his three-year-old daughter was the victim.

The man involved, who was also a transient, was subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment. In this case the little girl was actually attacked after being enticed into a nearby woods.

Member Of Race On Jury Which Convicted Riddick

Jurors Questioned Regarding Their Racial Feelings Deny Any Prejudice

Questions concerning their opposition to capital punishment, together with other queries as to their possible blood relationship to the prosecuting witness or defendant, and their stand on racial feeling, were asked members of the panel from which the jury was chosen to try Lewis Napoleon Riddick in Princess Anne County Circuit Court Monday.

The questions were asked by Judge B. D. White who presided at the trial of the 21-year-old youth accused of attempted criminal assault upon Mrs. Evelyn White, young white Princess Anne County married woman, and Q. C. Davis, defense counsel.

The Negro citizens of the county were on the panel of 33 summoned for the trial, but only one, Richard Kemp, farmer of the Kempsville District, actually sat on the trial jury which found Riddick guilty after an all-day trial and fixed his punishment at life imprisonment.

Mr. Kemp was described by Judge White as the son of a man who "was a body servant to Judge J. M. Keeling during the War Between the States," Isaac Wilson and Grady Bell, both county farmers, were the other two colored citizens on the panel.

It marked the first time for at least 30 years that Negroes have been summoned for jury service in the county.

Mr. Wilson was excused when he expressed opposition to capital punishment after being questioned by Judge White. Mr. Bell was excused until the next term of court on March 10.

In challenging the jurors Mr. Davis asked each of the colored men if they were related to the defendant "either by blood or marriage." The defense counsel also asked each of the white prospective jurors if they could give" this colored boy" a fair and impartial trial according to the law and evidence.

"Would the fact that he's a colored boy accused of this kind of crime, prejudice you in the trial of his case?" was another question asked by the defense. The question was answered affirmatively in each case.

QUESTIONS ASKED BY COURT

The following questions were asked by Judge White:

Are any of you related by blood or marriage to Mrs. Evelyn White, or her husband?

Do any of you reside within two miles of Pungo? (Scene of the alleged crime).

Have any of you formed or expressed an opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the accused?

Do you feel that you can give the defendant a fair and impartial trial according to the law and evidence as you hear it in this courtroom?

Are you opposed to infliction of capital punishment in the proper case?

Lynchings—1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Alabama.

5643

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 22, 1937

IMPEACHING A SHERIFF.

Governor Graves' announcement that an effort will be made to bring about impeachment of an Alabama Sheriff from whose custody a Negro was taken and lynched will be heartening to those who hope that in spite of many failures the South will yet prove that it can deal effectively with problems growing out of mob violence. Following the lynching about three months ago, both Governor Graves and Attorney-General Albert A. Carmichael conducted investigations. Particularly interesting is the fact that impeachment proceedings will be instituted despite the refusal of a County Grand Jury to return indictments or to recommend that the Sheriff be impeached.

Attorney-General Carmichael has asserted that his own inquiry causes him to believe that Sheriff J. L. Corbitt was guilty of "cowardice and negligence" in discharging his duty. A mob of about 100 men took a Negro from the County Jail, hanged him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets. Concerning the charge that the Negro had been arrested on the complaint that he had attacked a white woman, the Attorney-General asserts: "To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit grand jury would require about thirty seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this."

That view has been taken by thousands of leaders throughout the South. Indeed, the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, numbering among its membership some of the finest and most prominent women in the South, has repeatedly asserted that if officers of the law will enforce the law, the women will protect their virtue. Mobs which lynch Negroes are not concerned with enforcing any law except the law of the jungle.

Corbitt Ouster Opening Today In High Court

Montgomery, Ala.

Henry County Sheriff's Impeachment Aim Of Attorney General

Trial of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, on impeachment proceedings charging him with neglect, connivance and cowardice in connection with the lynching some three months ago of Wesley Johnson, negro, will open at 10 o'clock this morning before the Alabama Supreme Court, at the Capitol.

More than 100 witnesses have been subpoenaed to testify — between 50 and 60 each for both the prosecution and the defense. Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael and Asst. Atty. Gen. Silas C. Garrett, will prosecute the case. W. L. Lee, of Columbia, counsel for the Sheriff, will conduct the defense.

The negro, Johnson, held on charge of criminally assaulting a white woman, was removed from the county jail at Abbeville by a mob on the night of Monday night, Feb. 1, and taken to a point near the scene of the alleged attack where he was hanged and shot.

Impeachment action was filed against the Sheriff by the Attorney General at the direction of Gov. Graves, following an ordered investigation of the lynching. At the time of the lynching, Sheriff Corbitt told newspapermen he recognized some of the members of the armed mob composed of from 50 to 100 men, and that he would "gladly name them before a Grand Jury or in court."

Two Grand Juries called him but no indictments were returned. After a re-investigation of the lynching, the second Grand Jury recently recommended that the pending impeachment proceedings against the Sheriff be withdrawn. Gov. Graves declined to act on the recommendation, stating the matter was up to the courts. Atty. Gen. Carmichael declared the Grand Jury's action would not have the slightest effect on the proceedings which he intended to prosecute vigorously.

Arrested Jan. 31, Johnson was taken from the Henry County jail the following night, and his lifeless body was found on Feb. 2, hanging from the limb of a tree in the Tumbleton community. According to the Sheriff, the mob surprised him and his late father, then acting as jailer, and held them prisoner while Johnson's cell was forced open and he was taken away.

It is charged by the State in the impeachment proceedngs, among other things, that the crime with which the negro was charged was of such a nature as to "provoke popular indignation," and that the Sheriff did not take "necessary" precautionary steps.

High Court Votes 4-2 To Free Corbitt

Advertiser 6-6-37
Montgomery, Ala.
6-6-37

Reaches Verdict Of 'Not Guilty' In 35 Minutes After Three-Day Trial

Without Comment

Refusal To Oust Sheriff Backs 2 Henry County Grand Jury Expressions

Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, the second sheriff to come before the Alabama Supreme Court for impeachment this year, yesterday was acquitted of the charges preferred against him as a result of the lynching of the negro, Wes Jordan, the night of Feb. 1.

Thirty-five minutes after the court took Corbitt's case under advisement the verdict of acquittal was sent out with two Associate justices, Joel B. Brown and Lucien D. Gardner, dissenting. For acquittal were Chief Justice John C. Anderson and Associates W. H. Thomas, A. B. Foster, and Virgil Bouldin. Associate Justice Thomas E. Knight did not act because he was ill.

The acquittal was made public without comment from the court, setting a matter-of-fact period to a three-day trial that furnished some excitement. Corbitt was accused of negligence and cowardice because the negro was taken from his custody and lynched.

An offer by the State to "prove beyond all doubt" with "evidence and testimony unimpeachable in all southeast Alabama" that the mob got "the wrong negro," was held incompetent in the trial and attempts to present it were blocked.

The State contended pressure by citizens caused arrest of the wrong man. Three witnesses said the assault victim identified him.

Other developments tending toward the sensational were a fist-fight between Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael and W. L. Lee, defense counsel, and an assertion by Carmichael yesterday that "if the State doesn't enforce constitutional clauses on lynching Congress is going to do something about it by passing an anti-lynching bill."

Asked whether the State would attempt prosecution of men named by Corbitt as having been seen in jail, the Attorney General declined to comment. Two grand juries have investigated the lynching without returning indictments and the second recommended that impeachment proceedings against Corbitt be dropped.

Four charges, all denied, were specifically made against Corbitt in the impeachment proceedings, ordered filed by Gov. Graves. They were: "negligence, grave fault, connivance and cowardice."

The State argued the front door to living quarters of the jail was not locked, giving the mob access to the structure, where they pryed open a steel door and then found keys to the cells.

Corbitt said he had no reason to fear mob violence and presented a series of witnesses to swear "popular indignation" was not such as contemplated to cause a lynching.

The sheriff said he was surprised at midnight, and "covered with shotguns" when he awakened. The State charged he "went back to bed and to sleep," while the sheriff said he got his chief deputy and rode the remainder of the night in search of the mob.

"I put him in jail and locked him up, just like anybody else," Corbitt testified.

Five Named In Lynching Issue Denials

Advertiser 6-4-37
Montgomery, Ala.

Henry County Citizens Brought To Stand In Corbitt Ouster Trial

Fist Fight Quelled

Carmichael And Defense Attorney Lee Battle But Shake Hands Later On

Naming of 10 alleged members of the mob that on the night of Feb. 1 took Wes Johnson, negro, from the jail at Abbeville where he was held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman—calling five of the 10 to the stand to testify—and an exchange of fisticuffs between Atty Gen. Carmichael, prosecutor, and Defense Counsel W. L. Lee, of Columbia, immediately after recess was taken at 1 p.m., featured the opening day of trial before the Alabama Supreme Court of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, on charges contained in impeachment action brought against him following the lynching.

All five of the alleged mob members placed on the witness stand late in the day, denied that they were among those who took the negro from the jail and later hanged and shot him, declaring they had no part in it whatever and were not connected with or involved in it in any way. Sheriff Corbitt, who is charged with neglect of duty, grave fault, connivance and cowardice, was present in the courtroom with his counsel throughout the day but did not take the stand.

Court convened at 10 a.m. when the more than a hundred witnesses summoned, were placed under oath. After the proceedings had gotten well underway, a series of verbal clashes over the admissibility of evidence offered by the State, occurred between the Attorney General and Mr. Lee, reaching their peak concerning a map offered by the former of the locality in Henry County where all events connected with the lynching took place. Mr. Lee claimed the map was correct except for a detail showing a certain road was under construction on Feb. 1. Mr. Carmichael insisted the road was not under construction at that time.

Then Shook Hands

A few minutes after court recessed, the two lawyers met in the Supreme Court library and the argument as to whether the road was or was not under construction on the date stated, was renewed. The discussion grew more heated and suddenly there was an exchange of blows between the

two. Both were seised by friends and separated before the difficulty could proceed further. When court reconvened at 3 p.m. Mr. Carmichael offered to shake hands with Mr. Lee. The offer was accepted, and throughout the afternoon verbal exchanges between them on points of difference were thoroughly amicable.

Shortly before the trading of punches by the Attorney General and counsel for the defense took place, a photographer incurred the anger of Chief Justice John C. Anderson by letting go a flash bulb within a few feet of his head while in the act of taking a picture of Sheriff Corbitt who was approaching the camera from another direction. The matter was satisfactorily adjusted, however, when it was explained to the chief justice that the incident was an accident and the photographer was not aware he was near him.

The 10 men alleged to have been members of the mob were named by Sergt. J. W. McClung, special investigator of the State Highway Patrol, who investigated the lynching and who said Sheriff Corbitt told him he recognized them as among those who entered the jail on the night of Feb. 1, overpowered him and his late father who served as jailer, and took the prisoner away with them. The names of these 10 men, testified to by Sergt. McClung as being those the sheriff told him he recognized, and placed in the official court record in the case, were as follows: Tom McCoy, Rupert Bond (husband of the woman alleged to have been assaulted), Cratas Whitten, Grant Whitten, Eck Wood, Bob Kirkland, Ove Wright, John White, Mose Bond and Hes Bond.

McClung's Story

Sergt. McClung first told of going to Abbeville; arriving there on the morning of Feb. 3, following the lynching on the night of Feb. 1, and meeting Capt. Potter Smith and Sergt. Carlisle, of the Highway Patrol, who were already there. They had a conference with Sheriff Corbitt, he said, and he made notes on the conference a few minutes after it was concluded. The witness stated the sheriff said that on the Saturday preceding the lynching, at about 2:30 p.m., Rupert Bond and another man came to Abbeville where they reported that Bond's wife had been criminally assaulted by a negro; that he went to the Bond home and obtained a description of the attacker from the alleged victim, who said he was tall and slender, of a chocolate color, with protruding teeth, and that he wore a shirt made of a guano sack.

The next day, Sunday, at 2 p.m., the sheriff said, according to the witness, he arrested Wes Johnson near Tumbleton and took him to the Bond home for identification, being careful to take along only a deputy and one other man. He said Mrs. Bond looked at the prisoner and said "that looks like the man," then asked that he be required to remove his coat, and when he did so stated "that's the man." The sheriff, it was testified, said he placed the negro in jail Sunday at about 3 p.m., continuing his investigation, and believing he had the "right man."

Sergt. McClung said the Sheriff stated he talked to Circuit Solicitor Hubert Farmer at Dothan by telephone; that the solicitor told him in his opinion the negro was safe, and that he also talked with County Solicitor Carl Farmer and Probate Judge J. P. Mitchell and others, who expressed the same opinion. The sheriff then stated, according to the witness, that some two hours after he had talked to the Circuit Solicitor, or about midnight, Monday night he awakened in his room in the county jail to find the room full of men with shotguns and pistols; that they told him "we've come after the negro. Give us your keys," to which he replied, "you can kill me, but I'll never give you my keys"; then someone in the crowd said "we won't do that. Bring on the tools boys," and a crowbar was brought with which a locked door leading into a furnace room was pried open, his keys taken from a box in the room, the doors to the inner position of the jail were unlocked, and the negro Johnson, taken from his cell. Later, the sheriff was quoted as saying, the prisoner was brought through the room where he, the sheriff, and his father were being held, two men having hold of Johnson's arms and one behind him pushing him along, and the negro was taken outside. He and the elder Corbitt followed the last departing members of the mob to the door, the sheriff said, according to the witness and saw between 30 and 40 men and ten or 12 automobiles also several trucks; and then saw men, cars and trucks move away with Johnson. The sheriff said, it was stated, that he immediately called the circuit solicitor on the telephone and told him what had happened; that "they had gotten the negro," and that after calling the solicitor he went to bed. Sheriff Corbitt was further quoted as saying the lock on the front door of the jail had been broken and for that reason the door had not been locked for several years.

Pictures in Court

At this point, the Attorney General introduced in evidence, a number of enlarged photographs mounted on board, showing details of both the interior and exterior of the Henry County jail. Indicating a photograph of the sheriff's bed room in the jail building, Mr. Carmichael asked: "Is this the room where he (the sheriff) said he found himself surrounded?" and when Sergt. McClung answered the question in the affirmative, the prosecutor inquired: "He said he recognized ten of them." "Yes," replied the witness, "he gave me their names." Mr. Carmichael said he would ask him about that later.

Testifying further as to what the sheriff said, Sergt. McClung related the sheriff stated the crowd was between him and his shotgun which stood in a corner; that his father started in from an adjoining room but was "held up." Mr. Carmichael then introduced the map that was to be the basis of the controversy culminating in the fisticuffs between himself and Mr. Lee later on. Following cross examination by Mr. Lee the witness, at the request of the Attorney General, gave his testimony as to the names of the ten members of the mob who he stated the sheriff said he recognized.

Coroner Heard Later

During the afternoon J. M. Herring coroner, testified regarding the holding of the inquest and said he knew nothing about the lynching until the sheriff came by to get him the morning following. Floyd Hall, another negro prisoner in the jail at the night of the lynching, testified to being awakened by a "bumping" sound on the first floor about midnight, and then seeing a group of men unlocking the inner doors and taking Johnson away. He said Johnson asked the men if they were going to kill him and when they said "no" that he asked to be allowed to get his hat and shoes, and was told he wouldn't need them. Charlie Lee Cummings and Bud Bingham, two other negro prisoners in the jail at the time, gave substantially the same testimony the former stating the jailer came up after Johnson was removed, that he was barefooted; that he asked them "did you all get very scared?" told them to get back in their cells; took the keys and went away.

Mr. Carmichael next called to the witness stand five of the ten men it had been testified Sheriff Corbitt said he had recognized in the mob. They were Tom McCoy, Cratas Whitten, John White, Ove (or Obie) Wright, and Robert Kirkland, all of Newville, located a few miles from the scene of the alleged attack. All said they did not know the Sheriff had stated he recognized them as members of the mob, denied that they were in the mob or had anything to do with the lynching; said they heard no discussion of the attack and noted no indignation or excitement in the community prior to the lynching. All said they were at home on the lynching night except one, Tom McCoy, who stated he was in Florida. All testified to the good character and efficiency as an officer of Sheriff Corbitt.

Court Is Writing History In This Lynching Episode

Here In The Deep South It Is Happening—Justices Strive For Indictment Where Grand Juries Failed In Abbeville Mob Action

By Hilton Butler
Post Staff Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, June 4.—It can happen here.

In the "Deep South."

In Alabama.

It is happening today: The surging crowd, sharp words, angry moods, fists ready to fly again as they did yesterday.

But the locale has changed.

It is not happening in Henry County woods at night, by flashlight and torch, with a rope at hand and a three limb strong enough on which to drop a man to his death.

It is taking place in marbled halls, under electric fans and high-ceiling lights, thick carpets on the floor and a microphone to broadcast the story.

Unexpected Chapter

It's a lynching story—the second and unexpected chapter.

A bewildered law enforcement officer—Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Abbeville—walked back into the Supreme Court chambers today.

His badge was not in sight.

It may never be again. Justices of the court will decide if he is to be drummed out of law enforcement service in Alabama for "neglect, grave fault, connivance and cowardice" in the lynching of Wesley Johnson, Henry County Negro.

Capitol corridors are jammed as the unprecedented action proceeds. Ten nervous men from Henry County—identified by a state officer not facing impeachment for dereliction of duty as alleged members of the mob—move about in the crowd, witnesses, but as yet free men otherwise. Twro grand juries in Henry County have been able to produce nothing so far but a bucket of whitewash in their own investigations.

Trial Is Tense

There's nothing lukewarm or whitewashy in the current trial.

Justices lean over, asking sharp questions, demanding non-evasive answers. Opposing lawyers are as alert as tigers. Their tense nerves blew up momentarily yesterday.

"You can't insult me!" shouted Defense Counsel W. L. Lee of Abbeville. Henry County people gathered quickly. Fists flew.

"You struck first," retorted Atty.-Gen. Albert Carmichael as bystanders parted them.

Eastern newspapermen — belated in arrival but convinced that "it can happen here"—reported voluminously on Alabama's high court action against a sheriff whose prisoner fell into the hands of a mob.

Cry Of 'Politics'

As is customary when two or more are gathered in Capitol corridors, up went the cry of "politics." Attorney-General Carmichael, some observers murmured, is capitalizing on the trial of Sheriff Corbitt for use next year in a race for governor.

It may be true. The young man hasn't said.

But this is a matter of side-line comment as the Corbitt trial proceeds before a corridor-jamming crowd:

A rigid anti-lynching issue in "the Deep South" as a major campaign cry in a race for governor is as novel as it is courageous; and the chapter being written in Montgomery today is definite indication—these side-line observers insist—that it also is, from the practical viewpoint, "good politics."

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Birmingham, Ala. News
February 10, 1937

Further Inquiry Needed Into The Henry County Lynching

After the lynching in Henry County last week, Sheriff Corbitt said he had recognized some members of the mob which took his prisoner from him, and that he would identify them. The special Grand Jury called to investigate the case returned no indictments. Presumably, Sheriff Corbitt did not identify any members of the mob in his appearance before the Grand Jury, else the jury could not have failed to return indictments.

Perhaps Sheriff Corbitt withheld the identifications he said he could make in order to present them in his own defense against the the impeachment proceedings ordered filed by Gov. Graves. In that case, the impeachment proceedings will provide the next inquiry into the lynching.

At any rate, further investigation into this crime is needed. The state cannot afford to let the effort to apprehend members of the mob drop with the uneventful report of the Grand Jury. Gov. Graves, who has said that so long as he is governor mob rule will not be tolerated in Alabama, may be counted on, we trust, to continue inquiries into the lynching until the state gets to the bottom of the affair, if it is humanly possible to do so.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
February 21, 1937

Henry County Gent Condones the Mob But Objects to News of It

Editor of The Eagle:

Since the usual post-lynching ballahoo, so agreeably furnished by The Eagle and others of its kind, is on the wane, I find it incumbent to myself to defend, in some manner, the name, reputation and divine duty of the morally-right citizenry of Henry County from the unwarranted attacks of news hounds seeking to gain favor with factions utterly out of sympathy with southern traditions. We all know that a Negro was lynched in Henry county and we know, too, the reason why. We know that should another Negro rape another white woman in Henry county the same penalty given Wes Johnson would again be administered, the opinions of The Dothan Eagle notwithstanding.

I am not condoning the actions of the lynch mob, neither am I condemning them. After all, the law of our land is the people and it was a group of sober and mature white men, knowing the accountability of their deeds to their God, that tried, convicted and punished Wes Johnson for his savage attack upon a white woman. They were cool, deliberate and well balanced in the execution of their duty, traditional in our Southland.

The outside world would have known little of our rules and practices had it not been for your snooping reporters with cameras, fabricating false news, picturing the scene entirely different from the one left by the mob, needlessly multiplying the horrors of a well planned and well executed duty. It was your reporter, Mr. Brown, who witnessed, if not aided, the stringing tures of the Negro after he was strung up. It was Mr. Brown, your commentator, that described for news purposes the finding of the bullet-riddled Negro hanging from a tree. It was your paper that reproduced the horrible scene, minus of course, the body. It was your reporter, Mr. Brown, who was apprehended by the Abbeville police for selling the pictures without license. These are a few facts that may be supported by proof, should you so desire. Your snooping and blatant reporters have given false and faked publicity to a crime far less notorious than they have circularized it.

Our Honorable Governor became furious when notified of the crime. He tried to indict members of the mob. He failed. And Mr. Editor, he will fail the next time and the next. It might interest you to read the February 13th issue of the Chicago World, a Negro newspaper. The editorial in that issue decrying and denouncing the justice given Negroes in Henry county, and more particularly the injustice of the Tumbleton lynching is a fair sample of the false and erroneous stories given the public by your paper and its kindred organizations. Why not change your menu of human conduct and print something bordering on the truth.

No, Mr. Editor, not during this generation or the next few succeeding generations will the white men of Henry county and the Tumbleton community tolerate the debauchery of its white women by savage Negroes. The grand jury failed to indict and public opinion has condoned the action of the members of the mob. I was not a member of the mob, and, had I been, I don't think I would have to stultify my conscience in order to justify my conduct in the eyes of my fellowman and my God.

You have my kind and solicitous permission to quote this letter verbatim in your forum.

Yours very truly,
TULL McKNIGHT.

Abbeville, Ala.,
Feb. 19, 1937.

(Continued from Column 3, Editorial Page)

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
February 19, 1937

The Henry County Lynching

Nearly three weeks ago Wes Johnson, a Negro who had not been proved guilty of the crime charged against him, was stolen from the sheriff of Henry County and lynched. The lynching occurred just a short time after the introduction in Congress of the latest federal anti-lynching bill. Naturally the sponsors of the measure immediately pointed to the Henry County case as evidence of the need for such a federal law. They argued with considerable force that the states were unable, and possibly in some instances unwilling, to prosecute lynchers, and that, therefore, it was the duty of the federal government to intervene.

A great many persons, while not dogmatically or arbitrarily opposed to the federal bill, do believe that the states of their own accord should and eventually will stamp out lynching. They do not believe that a bill is wise that would take from the states such police powers as this bill would. They admit, of course, that a drastic federal anti-lynching law might go a long way toward stamping out this scourge that exists chiefly in the South. But they believe, and the record sustains their belief—that the several Southern states have made noteworthy progress, and that it will not be long before lynchings will be eradicated almost completely. In the entire country there were nine lynchings last year. There has been only one in 1937, and that in Henry County, Alabama.

Immediately after Wes Johnson was lynched, Gov. Graves ordered a special Grand Jury to investigate and called upon Atty. Gen. Carmichael to bring impeachment charges against the sheriff if the facts warranted. The Grand Jury investigated. but returned no indictments. However, the attorney general is pushing a vigorous investigation of the whole matter.

If the state is successful in its efforts to get at the truth of the trouble in Henry County and to take the proper action, it will have justified to a considerable extent the belief in many minds that the state and local governments, rather than the federal government, are the ones to deal with lynchers. Moreover, that would go far toward restoring the good name of Alabama.

Sylacauga, Ala., Advance
February 11, 1937

Lynching Probed

Special Grand Jury Is Investigating Negro's Death

Abbeville Ala.—A coroner's jury and a special agent of Governor Bibb Graves appeared before a special grand jury which is investigating the lynchings of a 19-year-old negro accused of the assault of a white woman.

Fact of the lynching was established by the grand jury from the coroner's jury, it was learned. Then the body summoned Captain Potter Smith of the state highway patrol. Smith investigated the lynching at the order of Governor Bibb Graves.

Following Smith's investigation the Governor ordered the impeachment of Sheriff J. L. Corbett on charges of neglect of duty. The negro, Wes Johnson, was taken from Corbett's jail early Tuesday by an armed mob of about 50 men. Johnson's bullet-riddled body was found hanging from a tree.

Double Springs, Ala., Herald
February 5, 1937

Negro Lynched in Henry; Jury Fails to Indict

Wes Johnson, a 19 year-old negro in jail charged with criminal attack on a white woman in Henry County was taken out of jail at Abbeville and shot to death and then hanged last Monday night A special grand jury inquired into the affair but re-

turned no bill. Gov. Graves has asked impeachment proceedings be started against Sheriff J. L. Corgett, hence the jury refused to probe the Sheriff's action in not fighting a mob of 50 men.

Corbitt Faces Ouster Suit In Lynching

Removal Action Against Henry County Sheriff Started In High Court

Negligence Alleged

Petition Avers Officer Did Not Afford Negro Due Protection Against Mob

Formal impeachment action seeking the removal from office of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County, was filed in the Alabama Supreme Court yesterday.

The proceeding, brought at the request of Gov. Graves and bearing the signatures of Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael and Asst. Atty. Gen. Silas C. Garrett III, has been set for hearing on May 3.

It charges the Sheriff with neglect, as a result of which a prisoner was unlawfully taken from the Henry County Jail and put to death; with grave fault in the conduct of his office, owing to which the prisoner was taken from the county jail unlawfully and put to death—and with willful neglect of duty.

Request that the impeachment action be brought against Sheriff Corbitt was made by Gov. Graves, following the lynching on the night of Feb. 1, of Wesley Johnson, negro farm hand, after he had been taken by a mob from the jail at Abbeville where he was being held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman. The negro's body was found the following morning hanging to a tree and riddled with bullets, near the Tumbleton community.

Word of the lynching reached the Governor through the press, during the forenoon of Feb. 2. He immediately had special investigators from the State Highway Patrol detailed to make a complete investigation of the occurrence.

On Feb. 4, after receiving the report of the investigators, Gov. Graves directed the Attorney General, in writing, to institute impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Corbitt and prosecute them as provided by law.

In his letter containing this direction, the Governor said it appeared to him from information he had received from the investigation of the lynching of Johnson, that Sheriff Corbitt was guilty of neglect as the result of which the prisoner was taken from the county jail and put to death; or was guilty of grave fault in the conduct of his office as a result of which the lynching occurred; or was guilty of willful neglect of duty in the matter; or that his acts in connection with the occurrence showed he is incompetent to discharge the duties of the office of sheriff.

A few days after the Governor's letter was written, the Henry County Grand Jury met in special session to investigate the lynching. No indictment was returned, and the grand jury reported they had not gone into the matter of the Sheriff's conduct in view of the fact that impeachment action had already been ordered brought against him by Gov. Graves. Immediately following the lynching the Sheriff had stated he had done all in his power to protect the prisoner. This statement was corroborated by the Sheriff's late father, one of his son's deputies at the time, who declared they were overpowered by the mob and held prisoner until Johnson had been removed from his cell and taken away.

The impeachment proceeding filed yesterday contains three charges and 18 specifications—six specifications appearing under each charge.

The first charge is that the Sheriff has been guilty of impeachable conduct in that he has been guilty of neglect of the duties of the office of Sheriff, owing to which or as a result of which, a prisoner was unlawfully taken from the Henry Copnty Jail and put to death. Specifications under this charge allege that Wesley Johnson, the prisoner, had been arrested on a charge of criminal assault on Jan. 31, and committed to the jail; that the circumstances under which the crime was committed were such as were likely to and did provoke popular indignation, which fact was well known to the Sheriff. The Sheriff, it is alleged, notwithstanding these facts, did not take such steps as were necessary and proper to resist or prevent an effort to take the prisoner from the jail; but was guilty of neglect in the care of the prisoner and jail, as a result of which the prisoner was unlawfully taken from the jail and put to death.

Substantially the same allegations are made in specifications appearing under the other two separate charges in the proceedings, which in conclusion requests that on final hearing, the Supreme Court enter a decree removing Sheriff Corbitt from office, and disqualifying him from holding any other office under authority of the State during the term for which he was elected as sheriff.

Albany, Ga., Herald
May 24, 1937

AFTER A SHERIFF.

Recently an Alabama grand jury refused to indict a sheriff who was charged with neglect of duty when a mob lynched a Negro.

Attorney General Carmichael says the grand jury's failure to act will not influence the attitude of the State of Alabama. He will hale the accused sheriff before the Supreme Court for impeachment, and prosecute him vigorously.

The Attorney General declares he is acting for those in his state who respect the law. In the course of his recent statement, he said:

To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this state I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the attorney general of this state, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law into their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great state at my command.

We do not know all the circumstances of the Alabama lynching. We do not know whether or not the sheriff is guilty of neglect of duty, but if the charge is true, it will be to the lasting credit of Alabama if the Attorney General's action before the Supreme Court results in the officer's removal. Lynchings are indefensible, but equally bad, and as menacing to law and order, is the failure of a sheriff or other law-enforcement officer to do everything in his power to prevent such an outrage.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
May 20, 1937

PROBERS BACK HENRY SHERIFF

Grand Jury Urges Dismissal of Charges Against Corbitt in Lynching Case

ABBEVILLE, Ala., May 20.—(AP)—Recommendations for dismissal of impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, charged with negligence in the lynching of Wes Johnson, negro, had been made today by a Henry county grand jury.

The proceedings were brought against the official before the state supreme court by Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael upon instructions from Gov. Bibb Graves. Sheriff Corbitt was charged with "cowardice and negligence" when a mob of approximately 100 armed men lynched the negro accused of attacking a white woman.

Grand Jury Reports

The grand jury investigating the three-months old lynching yesterday in making its report to Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead, reported it had considered all available evidence in the case and returned a "no bill."

"We do not find any evidence of what, in our opinion, would be any wrong-doing on the part of the sheriff of our county," the jury report said. "We respectfully recommend and urge that the impeachment proceedings filed in the supreme court of this state and now pending therein be dismissed."

Other Report Recalled

A special grand jury session, called on orders of Governor Graves a few days after the lynching, failed to return any indictments and the jurors reported they did not look into whether Sheriff Corbitt was at fault with a view of impeachment proceedings.

Sheriff Corbitt said the day following the lynching he did "all in my power" to protect the negro, and expressed his willingness to name members of the lynching mob some of whom he said he recognized.

STATE CLAIMS WRONG NEGRO SLAIN BY MOB

Sheriff on Trial as Result of Lynching Denies Negligence or Cowardice

NINE OF MOB ARE NAMED

Alabama Prosecutor Charges Innocent Man Was Jailed to Stop Criticism

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 4 (AP)—Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry county, denied before the Alabama supreme court any negligent or cowardly conduct in connection with the lynching of Wesley Johnson, whom the state charged earlier was "the wrong Negro."

Corbitt's assertion was made from the witness stand as defendant in an impeachment trial. Charges were ordered filed by Governor Bibb Graves.

The sheriff named nine men, all of whom he had been listed earlier in courts records as having been seen in the Henry county jail at Abbeville the night of Feb. 1, when Johnson, charged with assaulting a white woman, was taken by an armed mob and shot and hanged.

A sensational turn was given the trial when Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael charged the mob "lynched the wrong Negro" and offered to prove it with "evidence and testimony unimpeachable in all southeast Alabama."

"We will be able to prove, beyond all reasonable doubt, that popular indignation was so great that the sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong Negro," Carmichael said.

Sheriff Tells of Search

Chief Justice John C. Anderson however, cut off presentation of Carmichael's testimony with a ruling:

"The evidence is not competent; we don't want to try him (Johnson), we're trying the sheriff; and, the sheriff is just as responsible to protect an innocent man as he is a guilty one."

The sheriff, stockily-built and blunt-spoken, denied he "went back to bed" after the mob had taken the Negro. He testified that, instead he got his chief deputy and drove the rest of the night "hunting the crowd."

Two grand juries have investigated the lynching. No indictments were returned, and the second jury recommended to Governor Graves that the impeachment proceedings against Corbitt be dropped.

The state will begin presentation of rebuttal testimony tomorrow at 9 a.m.

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Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 25, 1937

Means Business

Gov. Bibb Graves, of Alabama, who says he intends to "put an end to lynching in this state," is setting about it in a business-like way. Directing the attorney general to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff of a county in which a lynching occurred, the governor issues a pronouncement that suggests he has enlisted for the duration of the war.

Striking out at the customary excuse for resort to mob violence—namely, to protect womanhood—the governor denounces it as "pure poppycock." He says it would not take a petit jury "more than 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict" for that sort of crime. He declares "only lawless hoodlums and enemies of government" take part in lynchings. That is the truth. The very dregs of society are permitted in some states to override the law and to resort of shocking mutilation and murder of people on mere suspicion of crime. And they are permitted to go unpunished on the theory, apparently, that they are actuated by desire to "protect womanhood." The composition of mobs makes the contention ridiculous.

Gov. Graves' outspokenness on the subject, accompanied as it is by direct action, is another indication that the South is becoming aroused over the discredit mob law brings.—Baltimore Sun.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
May 21, 1937

FARMER READY TO END LYNCH PROBE

'Further Agitation' Will Do No Good, He declares

(Early Story on Page 2)

With the second grand jury investigation of the lynching of Wess Johnson, Henry county Negro, behind him and in each instance the juries finding no indictments, Circuit Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer yesterday issued a statement in which he said, "as far as I am personally concerned the book can be closed on the whole unfortunate affair," and added that it appeared to him "further agitation of this matter will not result in any good."

His complete statement follows:

"I have been with two different grand juries in this matter, each composed of as high class gentlemen as are to be found anywhere I know that a painstaking investigation has been conducted both times. No indictments have been returned. And now, as far as I am personally concerned, the book can be closed on the whole unfortunate affair.

"When a grand jury fails to indict there may be a number of reasons. In the Henry county case, perhaps, it is the viewpoint that is born of the desire to protect Southern womanhood from crimes of this nature at all odds and to shield the victims from the embarrassment and humiliation of going through the ordeal of a trial with its many unpleasant details. At least, I am convinced that such a desire, or determination, is deeply imbedded in the minds and hearts of our people.

"I do not believe in mob law, but it appears to me that further agitation of this matter will not result in any good."

ON SCARING SHERIFFS

Mob action in the South is an abomination. It is indefensible from any point of view. It has done a great deal to injure the South before the world. Mob action not only is vicious and unwise, but it is unnecessary. There is always a better way.

One Alabama sheriff recently was brought up for impeachment trial before the Supreme Court of Alabama. He was charged with negligence in the protection of a prisoner. In the end the justices of the Supreme Court, with two dissenting votes, declared him innocent of negligence, after two grand juries in his county had white-washed him. The sheriff had the satisfaction of hearing large numbers of his fellow citizens, representative of the best opinion in his county, testify to his good character. Indeed, he had the satisfaction of hearing the Attorney-General of Alabama concede that he was a man of good repute. This should be gratifying and heartening to the young man who was brought to trial before the highest tribunal of Alabama, especially in view of his final acquittal.

Certainly after this successful defense of his good name, no newspaper is privileged to question the good deportment of the accused sheriff. The Advertiser would be the last to raise such a question.

But The Advertiser is as quick to say that in its opinion State officials were right in bringing this man to trial. Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael acted upon reasonable information in demanding an impeachment trial It was their duty to sift this matter to the bottom, and this they did.

The State will benefit by the trial. It is renewed proof that the Governor of Alabama and the Attorney-General will not condone mob violence and that they are prepared to punish any official who is under suspicion of negligence. This, we think, will impress other officials. It is notice to them that their oath of office is binding. Such a trial will go far to discourage lynching in Alabama.

An incident of the recent trial should go far to impress citizens with the unwisdom of undisciplined mob action. Mr. Carmichael offered to prove to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court that the Henry county mob lynched the wrong man. Naturally the court ruled such evidence to be incompetent, which plainly it was. But as a matter of public policy Carmichael was right in making his declaration, and so getting it into the record. As matters stand the State will never know whether the wrong man was lynched or not, but Carmichael passionately insisted that he had the evidence to prove this. No doubt he had such evidence. If he did he had the best of all possible arguments against mob action—the mob is unselective, undiscriminating, unjust, otherwise it would not have constituted itself a mob.

Nothing can be done about the Carmichael theory that the wrong man was killed, and there is no appeal from the verdict of the Supreme Court that the sheriff at trial was not negligent. The public, we think, will be satisfied that the sheriff is innocent, however the public may regard the action of the mob in killing the wrong man.

But of this there can be no doubt: It is worth while to scare sheriffs in the Deep South, and so make them more diligent and more dutiful in the discharge of their obligations.

It is the duty of sheriffs to see that juries, not undisciplined mobs, decide who among us must die for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The Advertiser is glad that Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael made their grand effort to get at the truth of the Henry county lynching. Do it again, when occasion demands!

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
May 27, 1937

Alabama Moves Against Lynchers

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The Montgomery Advertiser

THERE are two "schools of thought" in Alabama regarding lynch mobs. One believes in the summary execution of offenders against certain laws, particularly the law against assault. This school often controls the grand juries that are summoned to investigate the faithlessness of peace officers in the face of revolting crimes. It is a shallow and irresponsible school.

It is a school that is scorned by Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael—to the glory of Alabama.

Regarding the white-washing of an Alabama sheriff who is charged with negligence in the face of a mob that lynched a Negro accused of attacking a white woman, Mr. Carmichael published a statement in the Advertiser Friday morning in which he, on behalf of the Governor as well as himself, took high ground for that "school of thought" that scorns mob violence. Announcing that the State of Alabama would ignore the recent action of a grand jury in white-washing the accused sheriff, he said he would proceed to bring the sheriff before the Supreme Court for impeachment.

The Governor and the attorney-general investigated the facts in this case carefully and are convinced that impeachment proceedings are justified.

In the course of his statement Mr. Carmichael wisely and forcefully says:

"The recent report of the Grand Jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The impeachment proceedings will proceed and will be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the attorney-general is capable of putting forth.

"The framers of our Constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.

"I want to take this occasion to say that the Governor of Alabama and the Attorney-General of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter; that we are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama State officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character are doing their duty and will continue to do it.

"To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting wo-

manhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this State I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the attorney-general of this State, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most rigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great State at my command."

Without prejudice to the sheriff now under fire the Advertiser nevertheless commends the foregoing statement as representative of the best thought in Alabama, the only thought on the subject that in the long run can be trusted.

Let us stop lynching human beings in this otherwise civilized State! The only way to stop it is to strike at the officials who permit it.

State Courts and Lynching

A twenty-year old Alabama farm hand was taken from a county jail and lynched under circumstances which moved Governor Graves and Attorney General Carmichael to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff in the State Supreme Court. 6-12-37

In the course of the investigation conducted by the governor and the attorney general it developed that evidence was found to substantiate the claim that the man lynched had no connection with the crime with which he was charged.

Mr. Carmichael told the court "we will be able to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the public indignation was so great that the sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong Negro."

The idea was not to press impeachment charges against the sheriff because the wrong man was lynched, however, but to show that in addition to unlawfully putting a man to death this particular mob had put to death the wrong man. That the sheriff had not only permitted a mob to lynch a man, but an entirely innocent man, making his position all the more untenable.

In the face of this situation what did the Supreme Court of Alabama do? It prevented the state from presenting the evidence, holding that "it was incompetent in the trial." The state contended, further, that the front door to the living quarters in the jail was left unlocked on the night of the lynching, giving the mob easy access to the prisoner.

In the face of all this, which the state argued it could prove "beyond a reasonable doubt," the Alabama Supreme Court acquitted the sheriff. That is fairly representative of all actions taken against all law officers that have permitted lynchings to occur in their jurisdictions.

It proves, again, the impotency of the judicial machinery of some of the states to punish any one for lynching.

A federal anti-lynching law could do no worse, and almost surely would bring about an improvement in the situation.

ONLY THIRTY-FIVE MINUTES FOR DECISION

Chicago Defender

South Is Angered Over The Success Of The Anti-Lynch Bill

6-12-37

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 11—No crime has been committed when a mob lynches a member of the Race in the state of Alabama even if it is a case of mistaken identity and the innocent victim is the wrong man." Such was the opinion of the Alabama Supreme court in acquitting Sheriff W. L. Corbitt of Henry county Friday.

Corbitt was impeached on charges of negligence, and cowardice in the lynching of Wesley Johnson, who was accused of having attacked a white woman.

Decision in 25 Minutes

It took just 25 minutes to free the Dixie lynch sheriff. The decision of the court came in a four-to-two vote and the role opinion was announced without comment. Friday marked the third time that Corbitt had been absolved of blame.

The complete vindication of Sheriff Corbitt affords one more specific instance of the opposition of the deep South against the Gavagan anti-lynch bill now up for passage before the United States Senate.

The court went so far as to ignore the warning of Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael that Congress would pass the anti-lyncing bill if Alabama doesn't enforce the constitutional clause on lynching.

Innocent Man Victim

The state in demanding the prosecution of the sheriff contended that he had failed to do his duty in saving the life of an innocent man. Wesley Johnson it was revealed, was not the man who committed the assault. A white man, former sweetheart of the woman, attacked her and fled. Her cries attracted attention and Johnson, trying to play the part of a Good Samaritan, came to her rescue. Two white men, who saw Johnson near the woman, seized him as the rapist.

Johnson was taken from the county jail at Abbeville, Ala., last February 1, by an armed mob. The following morning his body was found hanging from a tree not far from the scene of the rape. The body was torn by dozens of bullets.

Sheriff Corbitt denied all of the charges in the impeachment proceeding. The court was informed that the sheriff took all possible precaution for the protection of the prisoner, but with his deputies was powerless to prevent the removal by a superior force. He said several hundred men were in the mob.

Corbitt said he was asleep in the living quarters at the jail when the night riders entered and that before he could arise he was surrounded by men armed with shotguns. Denying a charge that he returned to bed and went to sleep after the men took the prisoner from the jail, he said he and a deputy hunted throughout the night for the men.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

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Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 5, 1937

Court Spikes Charges Of Lynch Error

Negro's Innocence Held No Part Of Trial As Sheriff Takes Stand

Corbitt Is Heard

Sensational Developments Mark Impeachment Bid Against Henry Official

Denial of any negligence, cowardly conduct or connivance on his part in connection with the taking from the jail at Abbeville and lynching on the night of Feb 1 of Wes Johnson, was made yesterday by Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County before the Alabama Supreme Court.

The Sheriff's denial was made from the witness stand during testimony in his own defense against charges contained in impeachment proceedings filed against him following the lynching. Wes Johnson was being held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman. The State charged earlier in the day he was "the wrong negro."

In his testimony Sheriff Corbitt named nine men whose names had previously been submitted to the court and placed in the official record as having been seen in the county jail on the night Johnson was taken from there by the mob and lynched. Ovie Wright, another man whose name had also been submitted as one of those in the mob that entered the jail on the lynching night, was "not there," the Sheriff declared, and he never gave Wright's name to anybody.

"The Wrong Negro"

Early in the forenoon yesterday Atty. Gen. Carmichael sprung a sensation during the trial when he charged that the mob lynched "the wrong negro" and stated he was prepared to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt by evidence and testimony "unimpeachable anywhere throughout southeast Alabama." Mr. Carmichael declared he could show that because of the tenseness of popular indignation and feeling that the Sheriff was "forced," the pressure brought to bear on him being so great because of the existing situation, to arrest "the wrong negro."

He stated further he would be able to show that the victim of the alleged assault placed the time of the attack at between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m., on Jan. 30, and that Johnson at 11:30 was four miles away. Defense Counsel W. L. Lee insisted that the guilt or innocence of Johnson was not before the court for determination, and that whether Johnson was the "wrong negro" or not had no bearing on hearing before the court of impeachment action against the Sheriff.

Chief Justice John C. Anderson ruling on the point presented, held that the testimony offered by the Attorney General was "incompetent and inadmissible" regarding the question of the guilt or innocence of the Sheriff, of charges of negligence, grave fault, connivance and cowardice in protecting a prisoner in the county jail. The responsibility of a Sheriff, he ruled, is just as great in protecting an innocent prisoner as a guilty one.

Arrest 'Forced'

"We will be able to prove, beyond all reasonable doubt, that popular indignation was so great that the Sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong negro," Carmichael said.

Chief Justice Anderson, however, cut off presentation of Carmichael's testimony with a ruling:

"The evidence is not competent; we don't want to try him (Johnson), we're trying the Sheriff; and, the Sheriff is just as responsible to protect an innocent man as he is a guilty one."

The Sheriff, stockily built and blunt-spoken, denied he told Capt. Potter Smith or Investigator J. W. McClung, of the State Highway Patrol, that he "went back to bed" after the mob had taken the negro, and testified that, instead, he got his chief deputy and drove the rest of the night "hunting the crowd."

Asked on cross-examination if he took "any particular precautions" following Johnson's arrest, Sheriff Corbitt said, "nothing out of the ordinary. x x x I put him in jail and locked him up, just like anyone else."

He followed a long line of defense witnesses who swore there were no apparent signs that Tumbleton community, where the alleged attack occurred, or Henry County in general "were unduly excited" or that there any indication of "mob violence."

"Everything Seemed Okeh"

Corbitt testified likewise, repeating a telephone conversation in which he said Circuit Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer told him "everything seemed to be all right" after a visit to Tumbleton a few hours before the lynching.

Asked if he later arrested any of the nine men he recognized in the jail while he and his father were being covered by guns, and the negro taken, Corbitt said he had not. To a defense question, he answered: "The Grand Jury was to meet ni a few days."

Two Grand Juries have investigated the lynching. No indictments were returend, and the second jury recommended to Gov. Graves that the impeachment proceedings against Corbitt be dropped.

Corbitt testified he told the mob "I'd die before they got my keys," but they forced a steel door with a crowbar and found his cell keys in a box in another room.

The sheriff said on cross-examination he did not ask anyone for an order to transfer Johnson to another jail, "because I thought everything was all right." At another point he said Solicitor Farmer might have told him "to be cautious in handling the negro."

Sent Father To Bed

The Sheriff testified that he told his father, 71-year-old jailer, to "go to bed" after he had locked prisoners, liberaetd by the mob, back in their cells.

"Then I went and got my deputy, Mr. (Chief Deputy Alf) Roney, and told him: "Let's ride out and see if we can find them," Corbitt said.

He and Roney, Corbitt said, went in the direction of the last car in the mob crowd. Corbitt said he and his father lived "downstairs in living quarters of the jail." and that the mob entered through a front door which was not locked."

"I got to the front door just in time to see the last car," he said. "It turned on a street that leads toward Fort Gaines, Ga."

Roney and Corbitt, the latter said, went to Fort Gaines, came back by Shorterville, Ala., went down the Columbia, Ala., road and elsewhere. It was while he was eating breakfast, Corbitt said, that he heard where the mob had taken the negro.

Roney substantiated major portions of Corbitt's testimony. He estimated they did not get closer than seven miles to the scene of the lynching during their night ride.

Sheriff "Crucified"

Mrs. C. H. Thrasher, State Jail inspector, read a report of her inspection of the Abbeville jail, in which she said it was "sanitary, and as to safety I would say that it is one of the best in the State of Alabama."

Carmichael asked her only one question: "Aren't you the daughter of Sheriff W. C. Daniel, of Macon County, impeached by this court a short time ago?"

"I am the daughter of a sheriff I believe was crucified," she answered.

Sheriff Daniel died of a gunshot wound after his car was wrecked a few weeks ago. A verdict of suicide was returned.

When adjournme was taken last night, Carmichael said the State would begin presentation of rebuttal testimony today at 9 a.m.

While being cut-off from directly bringing out his reputed "unimpeachable testimony and evidence" the wrong negro was lynched, Carmichael finally called Mrs. Rupert Bond, whom Johnson was accused by warrant as assaulting, to show that the alleged incident occurred "at 11:15 a.m."

Time of Assault

Then John H. Oates, Henry County road supervisor and former employer of Johnson, testified he saw the negro on the day of the alleged assault "about noon—a little before noon."

Again the Chief Justice interrupted saying:

"We don't want to try him (Johnson); we are trying the sheriff."

After the State closed its case Defense Counsel W. L. Lee called several witnesses from the Newville and Tumbleton communities, where the assault was alleged to have occurred, to testify they heard no talk of mob violence after Johnson's arrest.

The State contends Corbitt was at fault for not "protecting" the negro whose bullet riddled body was found hanging to a tree the morning after he was removed from jail by the crowd.

Corroboration Testimony

Chief Deputy Sheriff Alf Roney, who followed the Sheriff on the witness stand, corroborated, substantially, the testimony given by the latter as to what occurred after the negro had been taken from the jail and the mob had left. He told of going to see Mr. Oates on the Saturday night following the alleged attack and telling him the description given by the alleged victim of her assailant fitted Wes Johnson who worked on the Oates farm; of going back the next day to the Oates farm and endeavoring to trace some tracks found there. He said some 12 or 15 men assisted him, but none was armed.

The witness related then how he, the Sheriff and Oates, took Johnson to the home of the alleged victim for identification; said he observed no indication of popular indignation or evidence that the people of the neighborhood were aroused; that he observed no excitement the day following when, he said, Oates told him he believed he had "the right man," and said he did not believe there was any danger of attempted violence.

The Chief Deputy then corroborated what the Sheriff had testified concerning his attempts to locate the mob for the remainder of the night following the taking of Johnson from the jail, and said he accompanied the Sheriff. On cross examination by the Attorney General, the witness stated they did not go to the community where the alleged attack occurred. He stated they drove east, then south. Asked if east was not in the opposite direction from the crime scene, he replied in the affirmative.

Awakened at 2 A.M.

Sheriff Corbett awakened him at about 2 a.m., following the visit of the mob to the jail, and told him "a mob has taken the prisoner. Let's see what we can do about it," he said. Questioned as to where he and the Sheriff drove and asked if six or seven miles was not the closest they got to the home of the woman alleged to have been assaulted, he replied it was.

He attended the inquest, he said, but did not tell the coroner's jury how the negro met his death "because he didn't know. He denied telling Oates "it looks like the crowd's not going to be satisfied unless I arrest that negro." He denied Oates told him in Abbeville, Monday afternoon, prior to the lynching, that the situation existing at Tumbleton at that time was tense.

At the conclusion a few minutes before 6 p.m. of the testimony of the Chief Deputy, court recessed until 9 a.m. today, when rebuttal testimony will be presented by the State. It was expected that the case will be finally submitted to the Supreme Court early in the forenoon.

Salisbury, N. C. Post
June 6, 1937

Sheriff Helpless

The supreme court of Alabama yesterday acquitted Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, Henry county of charges of impeachment growing out of the lynching of a negro in that state.

That is not nearly so important a bit of news as would have been a conviction; but the court must be assumed to have administered justice according to the best of its ability, and the seal of the law's majesty rests upon the decision exonerating the officer of all blame in the case where an armed mob forced him to surrender the negro who was subsequently killed in violence.

We of the South may take some encouragement from the fact that impeachment charges were brought. Only in recent years has public opinion become so strongly against mob violence in the South as to make possible definite legal action in effort to place criminal responsibility for lynchings upon individuals.

But we are not yet in a position fairly to resent critical comment from other sections of the United States. Recent predictions in the eastern press to the effect that the sheriff would be acquitted have been justified.

No doubt he should have been acquitted. It is easily credible that the sheriff's story of being the helpless victim of superior force is wholly true. The point is that the rest of this country regards any and all Southern anti-lynching activity with the greatest suspicion, and it will continue to do so until some absolute proof has been offered and repeated that southern law enforcemen

agencies are capable of and willing to enforce southern statutes against mob violence.

Any case of the nature of this one in Alabama is going to bring predictions of whitewashing for all concerned and those claims of whitewashings will continue to influence opinion of the South in other areas far more than the cold and non-sensational statistics which our region can offer of a gradually improving intolerance for mob violence, and of more frequent cases where agencies of law enforcement have taken positive and efficiently successful initiative in guarding prisoners threatened by mob violence from harm.

In prosecuting Sheriff Corbitt, Alabama's attorney general warned: "If we don't enforce the constitutional clause on lynching, Congress will pass an anti-lynching bill."

We hate to put any plea for abolition of lynching on that basis even more than we dislike indicting it on the grounds of the unfavorable regard for us which it creates in other parts of the United States.

But the ideal of mob-law abolition will justify almost any reasonable means which may be employed to bring it about. If a basis of provincial pride, or a basis of fear of further inroads upon our state sovereignties by federal agents from Washington will prove truly effective in ridding the south of lynch-law, then by all means let us adopt such bases.

And in the meanwhile, by whatever method, let us hope that Southern lynchings will decrease to the vanishing point coincidentally with the coming of a day when public opinion will demand the apprehension of mob leaders and members and our courts, high and low, may be counted on to punish the motley degenerates who perpetuate the bestial bench of Judge Lynch to the full extent of exacting statutes.

Roanoke, Va., World News
June 1, 1937

Up to the better Element

After a recent lynching in Henry county Alabama, a grand jury inquiry resulted in a recommendation that the case be dropped. The grand jury was unwilling to sponsor a charge that the sheriff of Henry County had been negligent in failing to protect a prisoner against a mob. Governor Bibb Graves has denounced this grand jury white-washing of a local official more effective in politics than in the conduct of his office, and has directed Attorney General Carmichael to bring ouster proceedings against the negligent sheriff.

Governor Graves says the stock argument in defense of lynching that it is intended to "protect womanhood" is "pure poppycock," for it would not take an Alabama jury long to return a verdict of death where crimes involving women are concerned. The only result accomplished by taking this Negro away from the sheriff and lynching him was to disgrace the State, cause disrespect for law, and demonstrate the unfitness of the sheriff for office.

Governor Graves points out that "only lawless hoodlums and enemies of government" participate in lynchings, and sees no reason why grand juries should be so solicitous to protect members of such mobs.

A *Richmond News Leader* summary shows that there had been no lynching in Virginia prior to 1918 for sixteen years. Between 1918 and 1926, there were six lynchings, in Culpeper, Wise, Orange, King and Queen, Sussex and Wythe counties. Governor Byrd's vigorous message to the Legislature on the subject of lynching resulted in the passage of the Virginia anti-lynching statute of 1926, since which there has been no lynching in this State.

In the six Virginia instances it was probably true, as Governor Graves has said of Alabama, that "only lawless hoodlums and enemies of government" participated in lynching. No one suspects or charges that the better elements of Culpeper, Wise, Orange, King and Queen, Sussex and Wythe counties took part in or even sanctioned the lynchings which stain the names of those counties. But that same better element has not insisted, even after a decade, that the "lawless hoodlums and enemies of government" be brought into court and punished for their participation in mob murders of unarmed and defenseless prisoners.

The "better element" theory advanced by Governor Graves would be more convincing if the so-called "better element" insisted on ousting sheriffs who hand over those in their custody to lynching parties. It would be more convincing if the Alabama grand jury had done its duty, and returned indictments against known ringleaders of the lynching party, instead of recommending that the inquiry be dropped. Lynchings will end in any State whenever the so-called "better element" which has no part in lynchings demands the punishment of those who take the law into their hands.

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
June 25, 1937

A jury hearing the impeachment trial of an Alabama sheriff charged with failure to protect a negro from a mob was told the other day that the mob "lynched the wrong negro." Attorney General A. A. Carmichael told the court, "We will be able to prove, beyond all reasonable doubt, that popular indignation was so great that the sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong negro." And then the sheriff did not protect him.

Franklinton, N. C., Era-Leader
June 10, 1937

Lynch Law

If more State officials would use the authority vested in them, as Governor Graves of Alabama, has done recently, the crime of lynching in our Southland, that has been such a reflection on our inability to do justice to all who live among us, would cease. Lynching is one of our worst crimes. Whenever a mob takes the law into its own hands and undertakes to administer justice as it sees fit and supercedes our courts, it commits a crime of far more reaching importance than whatever crime it is trying to correct.

An anti-lynching bill passed the House of Representatives some months ago and unless the officials of our Southern states use every means they have to prevent these mobs from running rough shod over the law of the land this infamous anti-lynching bill, which is aimed at the South, will become law. The rank and file of our people oppose lynch law but we are too timid about it. We need more Governors like Graves of Alabama, who had impeachment proceedings started against a sheriff in that state for his negligence and cowardice as a peace officer in permitting a mob to lynch a negro. Governor Graves failed to have the Sheriff ousted but the Supreme Court that passed on the proceedings stood 4 to 2.

An editorial in The Daily States in commenting on the trial said:

"The fact that the court divided probably means that the governor will not relax his efforts if other lynchings occur. At least, there is some reason to feel that the fact that two of the justices evidently took the governor's view may have a deterrent influence on mob violence on the one hand and, on the other, more vigilance and efficiency on the part of police authorities in repressing lynchings."

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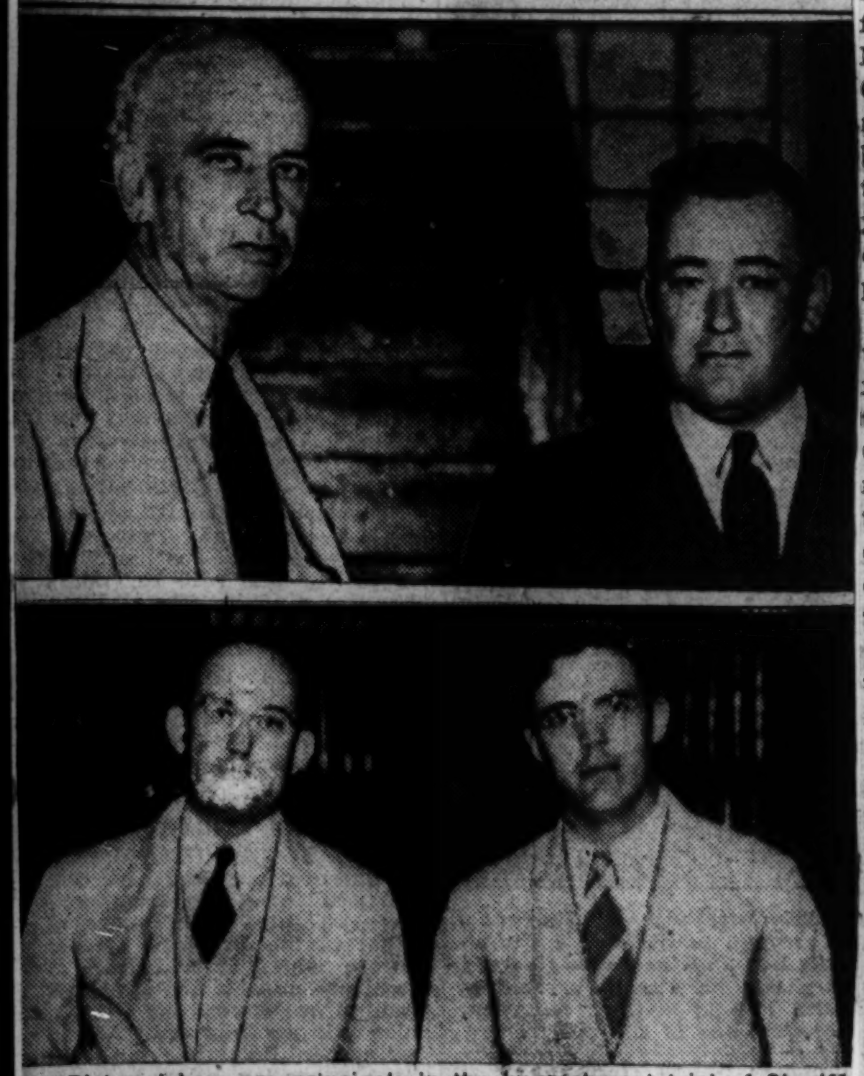
Birmingham, Ala. News
June 4, 1937

FIGURES IN LYNCHING TRIAL



Pictured here are principals in the impeachment trial of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County.

Upper left is W. L. LEE, defense attorney, and right, SHERIFF CORBITT, whose removal is being sought for permitting a Negro to be taken from the Henry County Jail by a mob.

The lower picture shows ATTY. GEN. CARMICHAEL and ASST. ATTY. GEN. GARRETT, who are pressing the charges against the sheriff. Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Lee came to blows during a controversy over a map placed in evidence.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 5, 1937

Alabama Justice At Work

For one of the relatively few times in history a state is taking determined steps to discover in orderly court the truth about a lynching. Too often in the past investigations into mob activities have come to naught, and not infrequently the public was left with the impression that little serious effort was made to discover the truth and punish the guilty.

Today we have a different story to tell. Alabama is without any doubt making a serious and intelligent effort to get at the facts concerning the lynching last February in Henry County of Wes Johnson. The governor and the attorney general have been unrelenting in their determination to discover the truth and obtain justice in this now famous case. They deserve the highest praise and support.

Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, from whom the Negro was taken and lynched, is facing impeachment charges before the State Supreme Court. Sheriff Corbitt said at the time of the outrage that he could identify some of the members of the mob, and Thursday in open court 10 persons were charged with having participated in the lynching party.

The evidence presented yesterday to the effect that the wrong Negro may have been lynched makes this crime even more horrible. At the time of the murder there were many persons who pointed out that under the circumstances it was impossible to be sure that Wes Johnson, the dead Negro, had been guilty of the alleged crime. That is true in nearly all such cases. Arrests are made in hot haste, and mobs gather and act blindly and stupidly. The Henry County mob is no exception.

The Supreme Court of Alabama today is hearing one of the most important cases ever brought before it. If under its direction the truth of this whole ghastly affair can be brought out and appropriate action taken a blow of untold magnitude will be dealt lynching and mob violence. Let the attorney general continue whatever prosecution the evidence warrants to the end that complete justice shall obtain in Alabama. Not only should the guilty be punished, but if Sheriff Corbitt is innocent of neglect of duty, he is entitled to the vindication of the law's formal word for it.

Oust Corbitt, State Urges Withdrawal

Unprecedented Demand For Henry Rehearing Filed By Carmichael

Perjury Charged

Montgomery Grand Jury Will Be Asked To Indict Alleged Mob Members

By JOSEPH R. M'COY

Application for rehearing in the case representing impeachment action against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, in which the Alabama Supreme Court rendered a 4 to 2 verdict of not guilty on June 6, was filed yesterday in the Alabama Supreme Court by Atty. Gen. Carmichael.

The application and the brief and argument that accompanied it bore the signature of the Attorney General and Asst. Atty. Gen. Silas C. Garrett III, who has from the first been associated with him in the case. Impeachment action against Sheriff Corbitt followed the taking from the Henry County Jail at Abbeville, on the night of Feb. 1 and lynching by a mob of Wesley Johnson, negro, who was being held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman.

Following the filing of the application in the impeachment case, Atty. Gen. Carmichael announced that it is his intention to take the necessary legal steps in Henry County to indict and bring to trial the members of the mob whom Sheriff Corbitt swore before the Supreme Court he recognized; and that it is also his intention to take the necessary legal steps in Montgomery County to indict and bring to trial on charges of perjury those members of the mob whom the Sheriff testified he recognized from the witness stand that they were not members of the mob. The Sheriff said in his testimony he recognized nine members of the mob.

After the lynching of Johnson, two special Grand Juries in Henry County returned no indictments against any alleged member or members of the mob that lynched him. The second Grand Jury recommended to Gov. Graves that the pending impeachment proceedings against the Sheriff, which the Governor had directed be brought, be withdrawn. The recommendation was disregarded by the chief executive.

The rehearing application filed with the Supreme Court yesterday is believed to be the first ever submitted by the State in an impeachment case, though any party to a case decided adversely to them by the Supreme Court has a right under the law, it is understood, to apply for a rehearing within the statutory period of 15 days.

During hearing of the impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Corbitt the entire personnel of the Supreme Court was not sitting, Justice Thomas E. Knight being absent on account of illness. He has since recovered, however, and is now back on the bench. In the 4 to 2 decision of the Supreme Court, Justices Lucien D. Gardner and Joel B. Brown dissented from the verdict of the majority.

The brief and argument filed with the rehearing application, respectfully requests that in the event the application is denied, that the court point out in an opinion setting out wherein the State failed to make out its case against the Sheriff. No opinion was written by the court in connection with its verdict of "not guilty."

Review of the law under which the proceeding was brought and prosecuted against Sheriff Corbitt, is presented in the brief, setting out Sections 138, 173 and 174 of the Alabama Constitution. Section 138 is the special section providing for removal of a Sheriff from office when a prisoner is taken from his custody or a deputy's custody, and put to death or subjected to bodily harm owing to the neglect, cowardice, connivance or other dereliction of duty by the Sheriff. Section 173 provides for the removal of officers generally, including Sheriffs, for willful neglect of duty. Section 174 provides the manner and method of the impeachment of officers.

Two "Parallels" Cited

A review is also presented of the decisions of the Alabama Supreme Court in the Cazalas case in Mobile County in 1909, and the Jinwright case in Bullock County in 1911, in both of which the Sheriff was removed from office for neglect of duty as set out in Section 138 of the Constitution, for allowing a mob to take a prisoner from the county jail and put him to death.

The brief then proceeds to set out the provisions of the [illegible] and the authorities construing them, relating to the rights, powers and duties of a sheriff in protecting his prisoners from mob violence — including the provision that the sheriff has the power and duty when there is danger of mob violence to his prisoner, to get a court order for commitment of the prisoner to a jail in another county, or if the prisoner is already committed to the jail in his county, for his removal to another jail in some other county. Attention is also called to the fact that the Sheriff has legal authority to deputize as many special deputies as it

...ssary to protect a prisoner; that he has the right to request the Governor for military aid; that it is his duty to recapture a prisoner who has escaped from or has been taken from his custody; and that it is his duty to apprehend or arrest criminals.

Reviewing the evidence in the case, it is argued by the State that this evidence shows the Sheriff had had several notices of the probability of mob violence and several warnings that mob violence was probable, though it is contended by the State, under decisions by the court in the Cazalas and Jinwright cases that no such warnings are necessary.

In Cazalas Case

In the Cazalas case, it is cited, the court said: "The Sheriff cannot presume that those who desire t- invade the premises will inform him of the fact, or make such a demonstration on the streets as to advertise their intentions." It is further cited the court said that when a crime of "peculiar enormity" is committed it always excites public indignation, and that "it is known that such crimes always bring about suggestions that the prisoner be taken out and lynched."

The State contends that the evidence shows, in spite of notices of probable mob violence and warnings of such violence, the Sheriff took no precautions whatever to protect his prisoners, pointing out that both the front and side doors to the living quarters of the jail, where the Sheriff and his late father, then jailer, were asleep, were neither locked, bolted nor barred.

It shows, it is claimed, that there were no obstructions whatever to keep the mob from coming in and surrounding the Sheriff and the jailer; that the only firearms they had was an unloaded shotgun; that the keys to the part of the jail where prisoners were kept, were in their accustomed place which was known to everyone; that the key to the door which the mob forced open in order to obtain the keys to all other doors leading to the place where prisoners were confined, was in the Sheriff's pants pocket on a chair by his bed.

That the Sheriff and his jailer offered no resistance to the mob and made no effort to remonstrate with any of its members; that they did not follow the mob or otherwise attempt to recapture the prisoner who had been taken from their custody, but within a few minutes went back to bed.

As to conflicts between the testimony of the Sheriff and that of Capt. Potter Smith and Sergt. J. W. McClung of the State Highway Patrol, and investigators of the State, as to what the Sheriff told them, which are cited, the State argues in its brief that the Sheriff's testimony in these instances of variance referred to shows he "either had an unprecedented, unparalleled and unheard of lapse of memory as to what occurred and as to what he did or that he departed in his testimony on the witness stand from the straight and narrow pathway of truth and veracity." It is also argued that the Sheriff's testimony in these cited instances, when considered in the light of his interest in the case and the fact that the testimony presented by the State's witnesses was by disinterested parties

...f good character and reputation, who could not be and were not impeached, is "so absurd and fantastic as to be utterly unworthy of belief."

The State argues that if the Sheriffs of Alabama are to continue to be put on notice by the Supreme Court, as they have been in the past, that if they do not protect their prisoners from mob violence they will be removed from office in the manner provided by the State constitution, that Sheriff Corbitt must be adjudged guilty of the charges made against him and removed from office.

Pointing out that the court in its decision holding the Sheriff not guilty, wrote no opinion, the brief respectfully calls on the court, if it refuses to grant the application for rehearing and remove the Sheriff from office, to point out in an opinion, wherein the State failed to make out its case against the Sheriff, and to state therein whether or not it has overruled or modified the former holdings of the court as announced in the Cazalas and Jinwright cases.

The brief cites there is a mandatory duty on the Attorney General's office to prosecute all impeachment cases instituted in the State, and states it is believed that if the court will point out whether or not it has overruled these former holdings it will give aid and enlightenment to that office, that will probably result in the saving of much time and money to that office and the State, and likewise save the court from being needlessly and unnecessarily burdened with the trial of proceedings such as the one against the Sheriff.

Corbitt Parries State Move To Reopen Ouster

Insists No Grounds Are Shown For Disturbing High Court's Verdict

Motion to quash the application of the State for rehearing of the case of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, recently acquitted following hearing of impeachment charges brought against him, by a 4 to 2 decision of the Alabama Supreme Court was filed with the high court yesterday by W. L. Lee of Columbia, counsel for the Sheriff.

The motion was accompanied by demurrers to the brief submitted in support of the rehearing application by Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael and Asst. Atty. Gen. Silas C. Garrett III. A brief will also be filed by Mr. Lee, it is understood, supporting his motion to quash and the demurrers.

In the State's application for rehearing, request was made that all seven justices of the Supreme Court pass on the application, and in the event it is denied, that the court set out in an opinion wherein the State ...raued to prove its case against Sheriff Corbitt. At hearing of the impeachment charges one justice was not sitting. Justice Thomas E. Knight, absent on account of illness, but he has since recovered.

Sheriff's Contentions

The motion by the Sheriff's counsel is to strike or quash the application for rehearing which requested the Supreme Court to set aside and annul the judgment of "not guilty" rendered after hearing of the impeachment proceeding brought against him following the taking from the Henry County jail by a mob and lynching, on the night of Feb. 1, of Wesley Johnson, negro, held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman.

This motion is based on eight separate grounds that are assigned by counsel for the sheriff, namely:

That the proceeding was one for impeachment before the Supreme Court, sitting as judges and as jurors and that a motion to set aside their finding does not lie.

That in causes for impeachment before the Supreme Court, the court sits as both judges and jurors; that their verdict is final, and that there is no law or rules of procedure in jurisprudence that authorizes the final arbiters, when their capacity is that of jurors to set aside their verdict and grant a rehearing in the cause.

That the motion is to the entire court consisting of seven "justices and jurors," and the case has been adjudicated by six justices, "who were

Corbitt Parries State Move To Reopen Ouster

(Continued From Page 1)

six jurors," and the effect of the action is for a seventh "judge and juror" to sit in the rehearing which he was not a [illegible] of the court at the hearing and determination of the case.

That the impeachment proceedings required evidence to convince the court "sitting as jurors" beyond a reasonable doubt of the guilt of the sheriff; and the court, by a vote of 4 to 2, "sitting as jurors," rendered a verdict of not guilty; also that the court, "in its dual capacity as judges and jurors" was without authority under the law, to set aside the verdict in the case.

Same Thing Over

That the legal effect of the motion is "to have the six justices and jurors to reassemble and reconsider their verdict rendered as jurors, and to call in a seventh justice and juror and have him enter into the deliberation, which is unauthorized in law, which is unprecedented in thought, and which is contrary to all reason and sound justice."

That the court, sitting in a dual capacity in hearing of the case and hearing it in that capacity is without authority to set aside the verdict rendered by the court upon the facts as "justices and jurors" in the case

That the legal effect of the motion is to have six justices, after the rendition of their verdict, to reassemble, call in a seventh justice or juror who was not present at the original hearing to see and observe the actions, manner and expression of witnesses on their examination—to enter into the deliberations with the "other six jurors" and have their verdict set aside and annulled and a different verdict rendered when the measure of proof for conviction is beyond a reasonable doubt; and that such a course would not only be unprecedented but beyond all the reason and analogy of trial by jury."

That the motion for rehearing and to set aside the verdict rendered, sets up and states no grounds other than the error of the majority and of the court and jury in rendering the verdict or judgment as rendered in the case.

Demurrers interposed set out substantially the same contentions, except it is claimed in addition that for aught that appears in the State's application for rehearing, the court sitting as a court, committed no error in the hearing; and that no grounds were shown wherein the verdict of the court should be disturbed.

Supreme Court Won't Reopen Corbitt Ouster

Refuses Application For Rehearing As Well As Request For Opinion

The Supreme Court of Alabama yesterday overruled application for rehearing filed by Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael and Asst. Atty. Gen. Silas C. Garrett III, on behalf of the State, in the case representing impeachment action against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County who was held "not guilty" in a 4 to 2 decision rendered by the high court some time ago.

In other decisions announced yesterday, the Supreme Court upheld ruling of the Montgomery Circuit Court that counties are not liable for payment of State sales tax, but reversed rulings of the same circuit court that commercial printing, lithographing, engraving and book-binding establishments, also optometrists, are not liable for the 2 per cent levy. Both are liable for payment of the tax, it was held.

The Attorney General in his application for rehearing in the Corbitt case, which resulted from the taking from the Henry County jail by a mob and lynching on the night of Feb. 1, of Wesley Johnson, negro held there on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman, had requested that in the event the application was overruled, the Supreme Court write an opinion setting out wherein the State had failed to prove its case against the sheriff. No opinion was written in connection with denial of the application yesterday.

Ruling that commercial printers, lithographers, engravers and bookbinders are liable for the sales tax, was contained in opinion in the appealed case of Henry S. Long as president of the State Tax Commission vs. Roberts and Son, in which the question of whether counties are liable for payment of the same tax, was raised. All justices agreed in affirmance of the Circuit Court's ruling that counties are exempt from this levy, but a majority overruled the Circuit Court's holding that Roberts and Son was not liable for it. Justice Lucien D. Gardner dissented from the majority as to this latter ruling, and wrote a dissenting opinion setting out his opposing views.

In reversal of the Circuit Court's decree that optometrists were not liable for the sales tax, opinion of the Supreme Court was by Justice William H. Thomas, the question being presented in the appealed case of the State Tax Commission vs. T. D. Hopkins. After citing it was shown that the value of the material employed in the manufacture of glasses for and fitting them to customers, is 20 per cent of the total price charged for the manufacture and service when the glasses are completed and delivered, the opinion said:

"The test as to the application and validity of the tax in such cases is not the relative value of the material and services, but the nature and character of the process, activities and manufacture required or employed."

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Alabama

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Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 4, 1937

Five Named In Lynching Issue Denials

Henry County Citizens Brought To Stand In Corbitt Ouster Trial

Fist Fight Quelled

Carmichael And Defense Attorney Lee Battle But Shake Hands Later On

Naming of 10 alleged members of the mob that on the night of Feb. 1 took Wes Johnson, negro, from the jail at Abbeville where he was held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman—calling five of the 10 to the stand to testify—and an exchange of fisticuffs between Atty. Gen. Carmichael, prosecutor, and Defense Counsel W. L. Lee, of Columbia, immediately after recess was taken at 1 p.m., featured the opening day of trial before the Alabama Supreme Court of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, on charges contained in impeachment action brought against him following the lynching.

All five of the alleged mob members placed on the witness stand late in the day, denied that they were among those who took the negro from the jail and later hanged and shot him, declaring they had no part in it whatever and were not connected with or involved in it in any way. Sheriff Corbitt, who is charged with neglect of duty, grave fault, connivance and cowardice, was present in the courtroom with his counsel throughout the day but did not take the stand.

Court convened at 10 a.m., when the more than a hundred witnesses summoned, were placed under oath. After the proceedings had gotten well underway, a series of verbal clashes over the admissibility of evidence offered by the State, occurred between the Attorney General and Mr. Lee, reaching their peak concerning a map offered by the former of the locality in Henry County where all events connected with the lynching took place. Mr. Lee claimed the map was correct except for a detail showing a certain road was under construction on Feb. 1. Mr. Carmichael insisted the road was not under construction at that time.

Then Shook Hands

A few minutes after court recessed, the two lawyers met in the Supreme Court library and the argument as to whether the road was or was not under construction on the date stated, was renewed. The discussion grew more heated and suddenly there was an exchange of blows between the two. Both were seized by friends and separated before the difficulty could proceed further. When court reconvened at 3 p.m. Mr. Carmichael offered to shake hands with Mr. Lee. The offer was accepted, and throughout the afternoon verbal exchanges between them on points of difference were thoroughly amicable.

Shortly before the trading of punches by the Attorney General and counsel for the defense took place, a photographer incurred the anger of Chief Justice John C. Anderson by letting go a flash bulb within a few feet of his head while in the act of taking a picture of Sheriff Corbitt who was approaching the camera from another direction. The matter was satisfactorily adjusted, however, when it was explained to the chief justice that the incident was an accident and the photographer was not aware he was near him.

The 10 men alleged to have been members of the mob were named by Sergt. J. W. McClung, special investigator of the State Highway Patrol, who investigated the lynching and who said Sheriff Corbitt told him he recognized them as among those who entered the jail on the night of Feb. 1, overpowered him and his late father who served as jailer, and took the prisoner away with them. The names of these 10 men, testified to by Sergt. McClung as being those the sheriff told him he recognized, and placed in the official court record in the case, were as follows: Tom McCoy, Rupert Bond (husband of the woman alleged to have been assaulted), Cratas Whitten, Grant Whitten, Eck Wood, Bob Kirkland, Ove Wright, John White, Mose Bond and Hes Bond.

McClung's Story

Sergt. McClung first told of going to Abbeville; arriving there on the morning of Feb. 3, following the lynching on the night of Feb. 1, and meeting Capt. Potter Smith and Sergt. Carlisle, of the Highway Patrol, who were already there. They had a conference with Sheriff Corbitt, he said, and he made notes on the conference a few minutes after it was concluded. The witness stated the sheriff said that on the Saturday preceding the lynching, at about 2:30 p.m., Rupert Bond and another man came to Abbeville where they reported that Bond's wife had been criminally assaulted by a negro; that he went to the Bond home and obtained a description of the attacker from the alleged victim, who said he was tall and slender, of a chocolate color, with protruding teeth, and that he wore a shirt made of a guano sack.

The next day, Sunday, at 2 p.m., the sheriff said, according to the witness, he arrested Wes Johnson near Tumbleton and took him to the Bond home for identification, being careful to take along only a deputy and one other man. He said Mrs. Bond looked at the prisoner and said "that looks like the man," then asked that he be required to remove his coat, and when he did so stated "that's the man." The sheriff, it was testified, said he placed the negro in jail Sunday at about 3 p.m., continuing his investigation, and believing he had the "right man."

Sergt. McClung said the Sheriff stated he talked to Circuit Solicitor Hubert Farmer at Dothan by telephone; that the solicitor told him in his opinion the negro was safe, and that he also talked with County Solicitor Carl Farmer and Probate Judge J. P. Mitchell and others, who expressed the same opinion. The sheriff then stated, according to the witness, that some two hours after he had talked to the Circuit Solicitor, or about midnight, Monday night he awakened in his room in the county jail to find the room full of men with shotguns and pistols; that they told him "we've come after the negro. Give us your keys," to which he replied, "you can kill me, but I'll never give you my keys"; then someone in the crowd said "we won't do that. Bring on the tools boys," and a crowbar was brought with which a locked door leading into a furnace room was pried open, his keys taken from a box in the room, the doors to the inner position of the jail were unlocked, and the negro Johnson, taken from his cell. Later, the sheriff was quoted as saying, the prisoner was brought through the room where he, the sheriff, and his father were being held, two men having hold of Johnson's arms and one behind him pushing him along, and the negro was taken outside. He and the elder Corbitt followed the last departing members of the mob to the door, the sheriff said, according to the witness and saw between 30 and 40 men and ten or 12 automobiles also several trucks; and then saw men, cars and trucks move away with Johnson. The sheriff said, it was stated, that he immediately called the circuit solicitor on the telephone and told him what had happened; that "they had gotten the negro," and that after calling the solicitor he went to bed. Sheriff Corbitt was further quoted as saying the lock on the front door of the jail had been broken and for that reason the door had not been locked for several years.

Pictures in Court

At this point, the Attorney General introduced in evidence, a number of enlarged photographs mounted on board, showing details of both the interior and exterior of the Henry County jail. Indicating a photograph of the sheriff's bed room in the jail building, Mr. Carmichael asked: "Is this the room where he (the sheriff) said he found himself surrounded?" and when Sergt. McClung answered the question in the affirmative, the prosecutor inquired: "He said he recognized ten of them." "Yes," replied the witness, "he gave me their names." Mr. Carmichael said he would ask him about that later.

Testifying further as to what the sheriff said, Sergt. McClung related the sheriff stated the crowd was between him and his shotgun which stood in a corner; that his father started in from an adjoining room but was "held up." Mr. Carmichael then introduced the map that was to be the basis of the controversy culminating in the fisticuffs between himself and Mr. Lee later on. Following cross examination by Mr. Lee the witness, at the request of the Attorney General, gave his testimony as to the names of the ten members of the mob who he stated the sheriff said he recognized.

Coroner Heard Later

During the afternoon J. M. Herring, coroner, testified regarding the holding of the inquest and said he knew nothing about the lynching until the sheriff came by to get him the morning following. Floyd Hall, another negro prisoner in the jail at the night of the lynching, testified to being awakened by a "bumping" sound on the first floor about midnight, and then seeing a group of men unlocking the inner doors and taking Johnson away. He said Johnson asked the men if they were going to kill him and when they said "no" that he asked to be allowed to get his hat and shoes, and was told he wouldn't need them. Charlie Lee Cummings and Bud Bingham, two other negro prisoners in the jail at the time, gave substantially the same testimony the former stating the jailer came up after Johnson was removed, that he was barefooted; that he asked them "did you all get very scared?" told them to get back in their cells; took the keys and went away.

Mr. Carmichael next called to the witness stand five of the ten men it had been testified Sheriff Corbitt said he had recognized in the mob. They were Tom McCoy, Cratas Whitten, John White, Ove (or Obie) Wright, and Robert Kirkland, all of Newville, located a few miles from the scene of the alleged attack. All said they did not know the Sheriff had stated he recognized them as members of the mob, denied that they were in the mob or had anything to do with the lynching; said they heard no discussion of the attack and noted no indignation or excitement in the community prior to the lynching. All said they were at home on the lynching night except one, Tom McCoy, who stated he was in Florida. All testified to the good character and efficiency as an officer, of Sheriff Corbitt.

Robert Kirkland admitted talking with Solicitor Farmer who came to Newville from Dothan, on the evening preceding the lynching, at a conference at which the father-in-law of the woman alleged to have been attacked, and the alleged victim herself, also several other persons were present, but said he could not remember clearly what had been said. Questioned by Justice Virgil Bouldin he said the talk had to do with court matters as well as he could remember. He was then asked by Justice Joel B. Brown if he had not previously stated he knew nothing of the reported attack by a negro on a white woman until the day after the lynching. After waiting a reasonable time for the witness to reply to the question, Justice Brown stated "that's all." Prior to that inquiry the witness upon being asked by the Attorney General if he did not know the conference held on the Monday evening preceding the lynching by the Solicitor was for the purpose of trying to persuade the father-in-law of the alleged victim and she herself, to go to Newville and endeavor to prevent a mob formed or forming there, from going to Abbeville and lynching the negro, replied in the negative.

At the conclusion of testimony by the witness Kirkland, the court recessed until 9 a.m. today. All Justices of the Supreme Court were sitting throughout the proceedings yesterday, with the exception of Justice Thomas E. Knight, absent on account of illness.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 6, 1937

High Court Votes 4-2 To Free Corbitt

Reaches Verdict Of 'Not Guilty' In 35 Minutes After Three-Day Trial

Without Comment

Refusal To Oust Sheriff Backs 2 Henry County

(over)

Grand Jury Expressions

Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County, the second sheriff to come before the Alabama Supreme Court for impeachment this year, yesterday was acquitted of the charges preferred against him as a result of the lynching of the negro, Wes Jordan, the night of Feb. 1.

Thirty-five minutes after the court took Corbitt's case under advisement the verdict of acquittal was sent out with two associate justices, Joel B. Brown and Lucien D. Gardner, dissenting. For acquittal were Chief Justice John C. Anderson and Associates W. H. Thomas, A. B. Foster, and Virgil Bouldin. Associate Justice Thomas E. Knight did not act because he was ill.

The acquittal was made public without comment from the court, setting a matter-of-fact period to a three-day trial that furnished some excitement. Corbitt was accused of negligence and cowardice because the negro was taken from his custody and lynched.

An offer by the State to "prove beyond all doubt" with "evidence and testimony unimpeachable in all southeast Alabama" that the mob got "the wrong negro," was held incompetent in the trial and attempts to present it were blocked.

The State contended pressure by citizens caused arrest of the wrong man. Three witnesses said the assault victim identified him.

Other developments tending toward the sensational were a fist-fight between Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael and W. L. Lee, defense counsel, and an assertion by Carmichael yesterday that "if the State doesn't enforce constitutional clauses on lynching Congress is going to do something about it by passing an anti-lynching bill."

Asked whether the State would attempt prosecution of men named by Corbitt as having been seen in jail, the Attorney General declined to comment. Two grand juries have investigated the lynching without returning indictments and the second recommended that impeachment proceedings against Corbitt be dropped.

Four charges, all denied, were specifically made against Corbitt in the impeachment proceedings, ordered filed by Gov. Graves. They were: "negligence, grave fault, connivance and cowardice."

The State argued the front door to living quarters of the jail was not locked, giving the mob access to the structure, where they pryed open a steel door and then found keys to the cells.

Corbitt said he had no reason to fear mob violence and presented a series of witnesses to swear "popular indignation" was not such as contemplated to cause a lynching.

The sheriff said he was surprised at midnight, and "covered with shotguns" when he awakened. The State charged he "went back to bed and to sleep," while the sheriff said he got his chief deputy and rode the remainder of the night in search of the mob.

"I put him in jail and locked him up, just like anybody else," Corbitt testified.

Selma, Ala., Times Journal
June 4, 1937

...TATE CHARGES MISTAKE MADE BY HENRY MOB

Wrong Negro Lynched By Irate Citizens, Claims Attorney General

EVIDENCE BARRED

Alibi For Victim Offered As Proof Of Contention Made At Hearing

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 4—(AP)—An offer to "prove beyond all reasonable doubt" that a Henry County mob "lynched the wrong negro" on the night of February 1 was made to the Alabama Supreme Court today by Attorney General A. A. Carmichael in the impeachment trial of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt.

Chief Justice John C. Anderson finally ruled "that testimony is incompetent" in showing whether the sheriff was guilty of charges of "negligence, grave fault, connivance and cowardice" in protecting a prisoner.

"We will be able to show, if the court pleases," Carmichael said, "that the popular indignation was so great that the sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong negro."

Carmichael said the woman allegedly assaulted by a negro, which incident culminated in the lynching of Wesley Johnson, 20-year-old farmhand, placed the time of the assault between 11:15 and 11:30 a. m. January 30.

Alibi Offered

"We can show that Wesley Johnson, the negro arrested, was four miles away at 11:30, and we can show it by testimony unimpeachable in all southeast Alabama," he said.

Here Chief Justice Anderson broke in to say:

"The sheriff is just as responsible to protect an innocent man as he is a guilty one."

Defense Counsel W. L. Lee argued the guilt or innocence of the negro was not to be determined in the trial of the sheriff and argued "whether or not they got the wrong man can have no bearing here."

Both the state and defense agreed today not to question any more of 10 men named yesterday as having been seen in the Henry County jail the night of the lynching regarding whether they were members of the mob. Counsel agreed all would "answer negatively".

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
June 6, 1937

ON SCARING SHERIFFS

Mob action in the South is an abomination. It is indefensible from any point of view. It has done a great deal to injure the South before the world. Mob action not only is vicious and unwise, but it is unnecessary. There is always a better way.

One Alabama sheriff recently was brought up for impeachment trial before the Supreme Court of Alabama. He was charged with negligence in the protection of a prisoner. In the end the justices of the Supreme Court, with two dissenting votes, declared him innocent of negligence, after two grand juries in his county had white-washed him. The sheriff had the satisfaction of hearing large numbers of his fellow citizens, representative of the best opinion in his county, testify to his good character. Indeed, he had the satisfaction of hearing the Attorney-General of Alabama concede that he was a man of good repute. This should be gratifying and heartening to the young man who was brought to trial before the highest tribunal of Alabama, especially in view of his final acquittal.

Certainly after this successful defense of his good name, no newspaper is privileged to question the good deportment of the accused sheriff. The Advertiser would be the last to raise such a question.

But The Advertiser is as quick to say that in its opinion State officials were right in bringing this man to trial. Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael acted upon reasonable information in demanding an impeachment trial. It was their duty to sift this matter to the bottom, and this they did.

The State will benefit by the trial. It is renewed proof that the Governor of Alabama and the Attorney-General will not condone mob violence and that they are prepared to punish any official who is under suspicion of negligence. This, we think, will impress other officials. It is notice to them that their oath of office is binding. Such a trial will go far to discourage lynching in Alabama.

An incident of the recent trial should go far to impress citizens with the unwisdom of undisciplined mob action. Mr. Carmichael offered to prove to the satisfaction of the Supreme Court that the Henry county mob lynched the wrong man. Naturally the court ruled such evidence to be incompetent, which plainly it was. But as a matter of public policy Carmichael was right in making his declaration, and so getting it into the record. As matters stand the State will never know whether the wrong man was lynched or not, but Carmichael passionately insisted that he had the evidence to prove this. No doubt he had such evidence. If he did he had the best of all possible arguments against mob action—the mob is unselective, undiscriminating, unjust, otherwise it would not have constituted itself a mob.

Nothing can be done about the Carmichael theory that the wrong man was killed, and there is no appeal from the verdict of the Supreme Court that the sheriff at trial was not negligent. The public, we think, will be satisfied that the sheriff is innocent, however the public may regard the action of the mob in killing the wrong man.

But of this there can be no doubt: It is worth while to scare sheriffs in the Deep South, and so make them more diligent and more dutiful in the discharge of their obligations.

It is the duty of sheriffs to see that juries, not undisciplined mobs, decide who among us must die for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The Advertiser is glad that Governor Graves and Attorney-General Carmichael made their grand effort to get at the truth of the Henry county lynching. Do it again, when occasion demands!

Lynchings-1937
& Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Alabama.

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'PURITY ANGLE' IS POPPYCOCK, SAYS ALA. PROSECUTOR

Effort to Halt Impeachment Action Against Lynch-Sheriff Fails—Calls Mob Members "Hoodlums"

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 27—The Henry County Grand Jury, it was learned last week, recommended that impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, from whose custody Wesley Johnson was taken several months ago and lynched by a mob of white persons here, be dismissed.

When informed of the action of the jury, Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael, declared that he will prosecute promptly and vigorously any person who takes part in lynching.

"Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings, have a distorted idea of patriotism. As the chief law enforcement officer of this State, I condemn mob law and make known that as long as I am the attorney general of this State those [illegible] are more [illegible]nt and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously and in this I will have the entire resources of this great State at my command."

Prosecutor Carmichael further stated publicly that "to say lynching has anything to do with protecting 'Womanhood' in Alabama is pure poppycock."

After a lengthy conference last Thursday with Governor Bibb Graves, at whose request the impeachment proceeding was held, the Attorney General issued the following statement: "I have conferred with Governor Graves about the recent report of the Grand Jury in Henry County. The governor knew about the grand jury report at the time of our conversation and directed me to pursue and prosecute the impeachment proceedings in the Supreme Court vigorously. To say that I will do this is putting it mildly."

Continuing the attorney general said: "The framers of our constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.

"I want to take this occasion to say that the Governor of Alabama and the Attorney General of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter. That we are most anxious that the outside wreld know that the Alabama state officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character, are doing their duty and will continue to do it."

Birmingham, Ala. News
June 22, 1937

THE WANDERER

BY LEWIS FOLLETT

"These brave men were actuated by the highest motive that can animate mankind—simple duty. . . ."

* * *

IN VIEW of the current efforts on the part of the state of Alabama to punish parties responsible for a lynching in Henry County, the following letter from DePew Meredith, of Eutaw, with its story of an Alabama lynching that did not take place, is interesting:

"It has always seemed to me that the Wanderer could find a column tucked away in the yellow pages of my grandmother's scrapbook. To her, everything was interesting; and as the daughter of the editor of the old Eutaw Whig and Observer, nothing that would shed glory on the name of Greene County was overlooked.

"The scrapbook itself could not escape notice. It is simply a catalog bound in denim, and from its yellowed pages, between clippings from long dead publications, peep pictures of forgotten wearing apparel—corset covers, detachable cuffs and collars and stockings with fancy designs that extended only half way up the leg (or would the word limb be more fitting?).

"A picture and article of Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bellamy, creator of 'Old Man Gilbert,' finds space in the scrapbook because she, for a few years, lived in Eutaw. Peter Brannon's column finds a place because he dug deeply into the past and gave a good account of the early history of the county.

"But most of the clippings relate to actions of my grandmother's hero—the hero with whom she lived for 45 years, and the one whose children she bore. To her, time never dimmed the luster of those clippings she so tenderly pasted on the ragged pages of her book. . . .

"For several years, during the turbulent days of the Reconstruction, the clippings follow the ups and downs of a people who feel the yoke binding them to a soil that has, through sudden change, become alien. During these days my grandmother's hero was constantly under pressure—as a newspaper man he was, following his work on The Evergreen Observer, The Selma Times and The Eutaw Whig—at night he donned the regalia of the original K. K. K., in an effort to maintain order among the suddenly freed blacks, who were brought under control more quickly in Greene County than in other sections.

"Then begins that long period which was to add height to the stature of the man. The period during which his epitaph was written: 'Never has he been known to turn his face from a friend, or his back upon a foe.' The 40 years he served as a peace officer 'without shooting a prisoner or being shot by one, and without being resisted by the many he arrested in all those years.'

"In The Age-Herald of May 16, 1892, we find these headlines:

"'A BRAVE RESCUE

By a Posse of Brave Greene County Men

A Negro Taken from a Pickens County Mob at the Gun's Mouth'

"And from The Age-Herald of May 19, 1892, we take the following editorial:

"'MEREDITH AND HIS MEN

"'The rescue of the prisoner from the Pickens County mob by the sheriff's posse of Greene County is one of the most notable and praiseworthy incidents in Alabama's mob history. Indeed, we question whether a rescue equal to it has been attempted and successfully carried out in any state. A small posse in the midst of a large mob stand with finger on trigger with the declared purpose of dying in their tracks, selling their lives to the best advantage or having their prisoner back. When we read of such incidents in the history of wars, our pulses beat faster and we write somebody's name on the tablets of fame.

"'These brave men of Greene were actuated by the highest motive that can animate mankind—simple duty. The prisoner was a Negro, probably a very desperate criminal, against whom no doubt the proof was clear. The mob was composed of white men from a sister county, personally known to and liked, no doubt, by their fellow citizens who made up the posse. The law was being violated and the sheriff and his posse were sworn to uphold it, and they did. More such deputy sheriffs as Meredith, and more such single-minded devotion to the day star of duty, would check this mob spirit that is growing fiercer every day in Alabama. It has already reached the point where many of our best newspapers join in the cry that lynchings for rape are the thing. Only Sunday last we quoted from a contemporary that judges are not clothed with the ermine, grand juries not paneled or sheriffs elected to deal with rapists. In this view of the case, Meredith and his men were the banditti and the mob sprouting wings.

"'That won't do. This is a land of law. The law must be upheld. It is severe on the rapist as any mob can be, for does it not prescribe the supreme penalty? To proceed to vengeance outside the law is wrong in itself and is wrong in the demoralization it works. Lynching for rape means lynching for arson and murder and burglary and on down the list till law disappears and the regulator resumes his function.

"'All honor to Meredith and his men.'

"Other clippings tell of the rescue. The Chattanooga Times printed a bold editorial commending the effect of the rescue. Letters came in promising support to Meredith on down through the third generation. And each clipping shows that even at this early time public opinion was crystallizing against mob rule.

"On down through the years we follow the trail of yellow clippings, until at last we come to the end where other hands carried on the book. Clippings telling of the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of the one whose hand first wielded the scissors and the pot of paste."

Supreme Court Gets Scottsboro Appeal Today

Begin New Effort to Get 4 Sick Boys From Kilby Prison

A petition and brief on the application for a writ of certiorari in the case of Haywood Patterson, one of the nine Scottsboro boys, will be filed today in the United States Supreme Court, it was announced yesterday by the Scottsboro Defense Committee which is defending the five Negro youths still imprisoned.

The papers will be filed by Osmond K. Fraenkel, noted constitutional lawyer, who prepared two previously successful Scottsboro appeals to the United States Supreme Court.

Simultaneously Moyers Shapiro, secretary of the committee, announced also that steps were being taken to have four of the boys removed from Kilby prison in Montgomery, Ala., where all are ill.

SEEK NEW TRIAL

Patterson, four times sentenced to death in the Alabama courts and twice saved from the electric chair by reversals in the United States Supreme Court, received a 75-year sentence in the Decatur, Ala., court in January, 1936. That sentence was upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court last spring, and the committee is now seeking a reversal and a new trial for Patterson.

"Despite all rumors of compromise and deals in the cases of the remaining five Scottsboro boys," said Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, chairman of the Scottsboro Defense Committee, "rumors which we most emphatically deny, we are pressing forward for the release of the five remaining boys.

"Appeals are being taken in the case of Clarence Norris, sentenced to death in Decatur, Ala., in July of this year, Andy Wright, sentenced to 99 years, and Charlie Weems sentenced to 75 years. Osmond K. Fraenkel has been retained to direct these appeals and the committee is bending every effort to arouse public opinion for their complete freedom. Our duty to these defendants and our efforts in their behalf must be extended until all of them are free."

PLAN HARLEM BODY

The committee, which met yesterday at its offices, 112 E. 19th St. announced plans to build an "active and representative" Scottsboro Defense Committee in Harlem which is to be a branch of the national body.

Among the Harlem organizations and leaders who will be urged to participate in the formation of the Committee are Rev. Shelton Hale Bishop; Dr. William Lloyd Imes; Dr. P. M. H. Savory; Dr. C. B. Powell; the North Harlem Community Council; the Newspaper Guild of the Amsterdam News; and Harlem branches of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the International Labor Defense, all three of which are already members of the parent committee.

Mrs. Ada Wright, mother of Roy and Andy, said yesterday that she would remain in New York for two weeks to appear at several meetings now being organized under the auspices of the Scottsboro Defense Committee.

TWO BOYS IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Wright, who early this week returned from a quick trip to Kilby where Andy was operated on, found two of the boys in the prison hospital. They were Charlie Weems and Haywood Patterson.

Patterson is suffering from a dangerous infection in the leg. Ozie Powell, Mrs. Wright learned, has wasted away to mere "skin and bones."

Information reaching the Scottsboro Defense Committee a few days ago indicated that Patterson's life was in danger in Kilby because he regularly resented the anti-Negro insults and abuse heaped upon him.

The prison officials have put up a virtually airtight system around the boys which prevents all friends except relatives, from visiting them. Mrs. Wright declared that she was not permitted to see Patterson although he and his family had been next door neighbors to her in Chattanooga, Tenn., ever since he was a baby.

SCOTTSBORO RULING GOES TO HIGH COURT

Petition for Patterson Contends Trial Was Not a Fair One.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11.—(AP) Alabama's famous Scottsboro case today made its third trip to the supreme court.

Haywood Patterson, who twice escaped the death penalty by intervention of the high tribunal, filed a petition asking it to save him this time from a 75-year prison sentence.

He was one of the nine negroes accused of attacking two white women on a moving freight train near Scottsboro, Ala., March, 1931.

The court will announce in October whether it will review the conviction or permit the sentence of Alabama courts to stand.

Patterson's petition, prepared by Samuel S. Leibowitz, a New York attorney, and others, contended the Morgan county, Alabama, court should have transferred his latest trial to the northern Alabama federal district court.

"The record shows the utter impossibility of petitioner obtaining a fair trial in Morgan county," the court was told.

SHERIF IS FREED OF LETTING MOB LYNCH CAPTIVE

Montgomery, Ala., June 5.—[Special.]—Warned by Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael that congress would pass the anti-lynching bill if Alabama doesn't enforce the constitutional clause on lynching. The state supreme court today acquitted Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry county, of negligence, connivance, and cowardice in the lynching of Wesley Johnson, colored, charged with having raped a white woman.

The decision of the court came in a four to two vote and the oral opinion was announced without comment. The decision was reached 35 minutes after the court took the case under advisement.

Johnson was taken from the county jail at Abbeville, Ala., last Feb. 1 by an armed mob. The following morning his body was found hanging from a tree not far from the scene of the rape. The body was torn by dozens of bullets.

Sherif Corbitt denied all of the charges in the impeachment proceeding. The court was informed that the sherif took all possible precaution for the protection of the prisoner, but with his deputies was powerless to prevent the removal by a superior force. He said several hundred men were in the mob.

The attorney general's reference to a congressional threat to pass the anti-lynching bill, the subject of controversy for many years, reflected the general attitude of southern states against the measure. Aside from the single statement, he did not expand his remarks.

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Court Spikes Charges Of Lynch Error

Montgomery, Ala.

Negro's Innocence Held No Part Of Trial As Sheriff Takes Stand

Corbitt Is Heard

Sensational Developments Mark Impeachment Bid Against Henry Official

Denial of any negligence, cowardly conduct or connivance on his part in connection with the taking from the jail at Abbeville and lynching on the night of Feb 1 of Wes Johnson, was made yesterday by Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County before the Alabama Supreme Court.

The Sheriff's denial was made from the witness stand during testimony in his own defense against charges contained in impeachment proceedings filed against him following the lynching. Wes Johnson was being held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman. The State charged earlier in the day he was "the wrong negro."

In his testimony Sheriff Corbitt named nine men whose names had previously been submitted to the court and placed in the official record as having been seen in the county jail on the night Johnson was taken from there by the mob and lynched. Ovie Wright, another man whose name had also been submitted as one of those in the mob that entered the jail on the lynching night, was "not there," the Sheriff declared, and he never gave Wright's name to anybody.

"The Wrong Negro"

Early in the forenoon yesterday Atty. Gen. Carmichael sprung a sensation during the trial when he charged that the mob lynched "the wrong negro" and stated he was prepared to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt by evidence and testimony "unimpeachable anywhere throughout southeast Alabama." Mr. Carmichael declared he could show that because of the tenseness of popular indignation and feeling that the Sheriff was "forced," the pressure brought to bear on him being so great because of the existing situation, to arrest "the wrong negro."

He stated further he would be able to show that the victim of the alleged assault placed the time of the attack at between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m., on Jan. 30, and that Johnson at 11:30 was four miles away. Defense Counsel W. L. Lee insisted that the guilt or innocence of Johnson was not before the court for determination, and that whether Johnson was the "wrong negro" or not had no bearing on hearing before the court of impeachment action against the Sheriff.

Chief Justice John C. Anderson ruling on the point presented, held that the testimony offered by the Attorney General was "incompetent and inadmissible" regarding the question of the guilt or innocence of the Sheriff, of charges of negligence, grave fault, connivance and cowardice in protecting a prisoner in the county jail. The responsibility of a Sheriff, he ruled, is just as great in protecting an innocent prisoner as a guilty one.

Arrest 'Forced'

"We will be able to prove, beyond all reasonable doubt, that popular indignation was so great that the Sheriff was forced to arrest the wrong negro," Carmichael said.

Chief Justice Anderson, however, cut off presentation of Carmichael's testimony with a ruling:

"The evidence is not competent; we don't want to try him (Johnson), we're trying the Sheriff; and, the Sheriff is just as responsible to protect an innocent man as he is a guilty one."

The Sheriff, stockily-built and blunt-spoken, denied he told Capt. Potter Smith or Investigator J. W. McClung, of the State Highway Patrol, that he "went back to bed" after the mob had taken the negro, and testified that, instead, he got his chief deputy and drove the rest of the night "hunting the crowd."

Asked on cross-examination if he took "any particular precautions" following Johnson's arrest, Sheriff Corbitt said "nothing out of the ordinary. We put him in jail and locked him up, just like anyone else."

He followed a long line of defense witnesses who swore there were no apparent signs that Tumbleton community, where the alleged attack occurred, on Henry County [illegible] were unduly excited or that there any indication of "mob violence."

"Everything Seemed Okeh"

Corbitt testified likewise, repeating a telephone conversation in which he said Circuit Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer told him "everything seemed to be all right" after a visit to Tumbleton a few hours before the lynching.

Asked if he later suggested any of the nine men he [illegible] in the jail while he and his father were being "covered by guns, and the negro taken," Corbitt said he had not. To a defense question, he answered: "The Grand Jury was to meet in a few days."

Two Grand Juries have investigated the lynching. No indictments were returend, and the second jury recommended to Gov. Graves that the impeachment proceedings against Corbitt be dropped.

Corbitt testified he told the mob, "I'd die before they got my keys," but they forced a steel door with a crowbar and found his cell keys in a box in another room.

The sheriff said on cross-examination he did not ask anyone for an order to transfer Johnson to another jail, "because I thought everything was all right." At another point he said Solicitor Farmer might have told him "to be cautious in handling the negro."

Sent Father To Bed

The Sheriff testified that he told his father, 71-year-old jailer, to "go to bed" after he had locked prisoners, liberaetd by the mob, back in their cells.

"Then I went and got my deputy, Mr. (Chief Deputy Alf) Roney, and told him: "Let's ride out and see if we can find them," Corbitt said.

He and Roney, Corbitt said, went in the direction of the last car in the mob crowd. Corbitt said he and his father lived "downstairs in living quarters of the jail," and that the mob entered through a front door which was not locked."

"I got to the front door just in time to see the last car," he said. "It turned on a street that leads toward Fort Gaines, Ga."

Roney and Corbitt, the latter said, went to Fort Gaines, came back by Shorterville, Ala., went down the Columbia, Ala., road and elsewhere. It was while he was eating breakfast, Corbitt said, that he heard where the mob had taken the negro.

Roney substantiated major portions of Corbitt's testimony. He estimated they did not get closer than seven miles to the scene of the lynching during their night ride.

Sheriff "Crucified"

Mrs. C. H. Thrasher, State Jail inspector, read a report of her inspection of the Abbeville jail, in which she said it was "sanitary, and as to safety, would say that it is one of the best in the State of Alabama."

Carmichael asked her only one question: "Aren't you the daughter of Sheriff W. C. Daniel, of Macon County, impeached by this court a short time ago?"

"I am the daughter of a sheriff I believe was crucified," she answered.

Sheriff Daniel died of a gunshot wound after his car was wrecked a few weeks ago. A verdict of suicide was returned.

When adjournment was taken last night, Carmichael said the State would begin presentation of rebuttal testimony today at 9 a.m.

While being cut-off from directly bringing out his reputed "unimpeachable testimony and evidence" the wrong negro was lynched, Carmichael finally called Mrs. Rupert Bond, whom Johnson was accused by warrant as assaulting, to show that the alleged incident occurred "at 11:15 a.m."

Time of Assault

Then John H. Oates, Henry County road supervisor and former employer of Johnson, testified he saw the negro on the day of the alleged assault "about noon—a little before noon."

Again the Chief Justice interrupted, saying:

"We don't want to try him (Johnson); we are trying the sheriff."

After the State closed its case Defense Counsel W. L. Lee called several witnesses from the Newville and Tumbleton communities, where the assault was alleged to have occurred, to testify they heard no talk of mob violence after Johnson's arrest.

The State contends Corbitt was at fault for not "protecting" the negro whose bullet riddled body was found hanging to a tree the morning after he was removed from jail by the crowd.

Corroboration Testimony

Chief Deputy Sheriff Alf Roney who followed the Sheriff on the witness stand, corroborated, substantially, the testimony given by the latter as to what occurred after the negro had been taken from the jail and the mob had left. He told of going to see Mr. Oates on the Saturday night following the alleged attack and telling him the description given by the alleged victim of her assailant fitted Wes Johnson who worked on the Oates farm; of going back the next day to the Oates farm and endeavoring to trace some tracks found there. He said some 12 or 15 men assisted him, but none was armed.

The witness related then how he, the Sheriff and Oates, took Johnson to the home of the alleged victim for identification; said he observed no indication of popular indignation or evidence that the people of the neighborhood were aroused; that he observed no excitement the day following when, he said, Oates told him he believed he had "the right man," and said he did not believe there was any danger of attempted violence.

The Chief Deputy then corroborated what the Sheriff had testified concerning his attempts to locate the mob for the remainder of the night following the taking of Johnson from the jail, and said he accompanied the Sheriff. On cross examination by the Attorney General, the witness stated they did not go to the community where the alleged attack occurred. He stated they drove east, then south. Asked if east was not in the opposite direction from the crime scene, he replied in the affirmative.

Awakened at 2 A.M.

Sheriff Corbett awakened him at about 2 a.m., following the visit of the mob to the jail, and told him "a mob has taken the prisoner. Let's see what we can do about it," he said. Questioned as to where he and the Sheriff drove and asked if six or seven miles was not the closest they got to the home of the woman alleged to have been assaulted, he replied it was.

He attended the inquest, he said, but did not tell the coroner's jury how the negro met his death "because he didn't know. He denied telling Oates "it looks like the crowd's not going to be satisfied unless I arrest that negro." He denied Oates told him in Abbeville, Monday afternoon, prior to the lynching, that the situation existing at Tumbleton at that time was tense.

At the conclusion a few minutes before 6 p.m. of the testimony of the Chief Deputy, court recessed until 9 a.m. today, when rebuttal testimony will be presented by the State. It was expected that the case will be finally submitted to the Supreme Court early in the forenoon.

WRONG NEGRO WAS LYNCHED, STATE THINKS

Post

And Sheriff Knew Victim Was Innocent, Says Attorney-General

6-4-37

TEN 'MEMBERS' NAMED

Impeachment Trial Goes On Amid Flurries Before High Tribunal

By William Bennett
United Press Staff Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, June 4.—The mob that took Wesley Johnson out of Henry County Jail at Abbeville last February, and hanged him as the suspected attacker of a white woman, lynched "the wrong Negro," Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael charged today.

Give Details In Acquittal Of Sheriff

Ala. Lawyers Fight During Lynch Trial

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP) —Although the six justices of the state supreme court were told that Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry county had plenty of warnings about mob violence yet refused to take any precautions which would protect the life of his prisoner, by a four to two decision Saturday they acquitted Corbitt on charges of "negligence, grave fault, connivance and cowardice," filed by Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael at the request of Governor Graves.

This action of the supreme court, which has upheld every Scottsboro conviction brought before it only to be reversed by the U. S. supreme court, is interpreted by keen observers as added proof that the Southern states will not themselves wipe out the lynching evil despite statements by their congressmen when federal anti-lynching legislation is introduced.

Johnson Lynching

The impeachment trial was the outgrowth of the lynching of Wes Johnson, charged with assaulting a white farmwoman, last February. It is the first intensive effort in the Deep South to punish the evil. Recently two special grand juries refused to indict members of the mob, although Sheriff Corbitt appeared before them and positively identified nine members.

The trial began Thursday, with Carmichael on hand to personally prosecute the charge. Corbett was defended by W. L. Lee, lawyer from Dothan.

Arrested Wrong Man

As the trial began, Carmichael told the court that Corbitt knew Johnson was innocent but had to arrest somebody to appease mob hysteria in that section of Henry county after the attack on the woman. He declared the mob lynched "the wrong Negro" and tried to introduce evidence to sustain this point. But Chief Justice John C. Anderson objected, declaring that under the law the sheriff was due to protect all prisoners and "their guilt or innocence has no bearing on this case." But Carmichael did succeed in letting J. H. Oates, white employer of John son, testify. Oates said the victim was "working my car" four miles away at the time of the assault.

The state's first witness was J. W. McClung, investigator of the Highway Patrol, who named 10 men he said Corbitt declared were members of the mob of 50 that stormed the jail on the night of February 1 and took Wes Johnson. He said the sheriff "knew them well" and identified them as they crowded into his bedroom in the jail. They were the same men whom Corbitt identified before the grand jury.

Lynchers Called

Five of the 10 men were called as state witnesses Friday. In response to direct questions from the attorney general, each flatly denied he was in the lynch mob and said he knew nothing of the crime until the day after it was committed. Each also declared the community was "quiet" with no hint of "public indignation" or excitement on the eve of the atrocity.

Three said they were "at home" and Corbitt could not have seen them at the jail, one testified he was in Florida during the hours of the lynching and the fifth, Robert Kirkland, denied he heard of the attempted assault until "the day after the lynching."

Witness Trapped

But a few minutes later Kirkland was trapped on questions asked by Justice Joel B. Brown. The alleged mobbist admitted he went with a lawyer to see Rupert Bond, husband of the woman Johnson was accused of assaulting, "the night before the lynching, and Mrs. Bond was there."

"How do you reconcile that with your earlier statement you did not know of the reported attack until the day after the lynching" Justice Brown asked.

Kirkland did not answer, but nervously twisted his hands in his lap. After a tense moment the justice said, "That's all."

Later Rupert Bond, also identified by the sheriff as a member of the mob, testified. He denied he was one of the lynchers, stated he had "wanted the law to take its course" and "had no knowledge of the intended lynching."

Carmichael then asked him, "Didn't your wife get down on her knees and beg that mob not to lynch Johnson?"

Defense counsel objected before Bond could answer, and the court sustained the objection.

Lawyers Fight

Later the same day, during the luncheon recess, Carmichael and Defense Attorney Lee staged a fist fight in the supreme court library. Lee hit Carmichael on the chest and the latter swung at Lee, missing him only a few inches. Friends separated the two, and later they shook hands.

Corbitt himself testified Friday, declaring he had no warning of the mob, and identified nine of those who entered the jail and "took" the prisoner. He said that as soon as the lynchers left, he called his chief deputy and the two rode over county roads until daybreak looking for the mob. Under questioning, the sheriff admitted they missed only the road going to the spot where Johnson was actually lynched.

When Silas Garrett, assistant attorney general, summed up the state's case, he said Corbitt was warned on three separate occasions of impending mob violence.

"The sheriff gave Johnson no more protection than he would have given a Negro charged with stealing a cow," Garrett added.

Gives Warning

Before the court rendered its verdict, Carmichael warned that an acquittal would be an invitation to congress to enact anti-lynching legislation. Whereupon Lee said the state recently has made appreciable progress in educating its citizens to "let the law take its course" and pointed to the Scottsboro case as "a notable example."

The six justices took 35 minutes to render a verdict. Associate Justices Brown and Lucien D. Gardner favored ousting the sheriff, dissenting from the majority opinion of Chief Justice Anderson and Associate Justices Virgil Bouldin W. H. Thomas and A. B. Foster. Associate Justice Thomas E. Knight, father of the late attorney general, and Scottsboro prosecutor, did not sit because of illness.

Furthermore, the attorney-general asserted, the prosecution in the impeachment trial of Henry County Sheriff J. L. Corbitt will show that Corbitt knew Johnson was innocent.

"Public indignation forced Corbitt to arrest the wrong Negro," Mr. Carmichael declared.

'Wasn't In Mob'

The attorney-general, heading the prosecution, made his sensational charges before the Alabama Supreme Court as Corbitt's hearing swung into its second day. Corbitt himself is expected to take the stand later this afternoon.

Previously, Ruper Bond, husband of the woman Johnson was accused as attacking, had denied from the witness chair that he had had any part in the Negro's lynching.

The husband of the victim told the court he had "wanted the law to take its course and would accept judgment of a jury in the case." He said he "had no knowledge of the intended lynching and took no part in it."

Bond was one of 10 men named by a state investigator as having been identified by Sheriff Corbitt as members of the lynch mob.

The defense objected when Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael asked Bond: "Didn't your wife get down on her knees and beg that mob not to lynch the Negro?"

The objection was sustained.

Bond's testimony was but part of the sensational developments in the trial that overshadowed the fact that Sheriff Corbitt, law officer of Henry County for more than 10 years, was facing impeachment on charges of "neglect, grave fault, connivance and cowardice" as a result of the lynching of the Negro.

Names 10 Men

The state's first witness as the trial opened yesterday was J. W. McClung, investigator of the Highway Patrol. He immediately named 10 men—and read their names into the record—whom he said Sheriff Corbitt had declared were members of the mob that stormed the Abbeville Jail the night of Feb. 1. He said the sheriff "knew them well" and identified them as they crowded into his bedroom in the jail.

Five of the 10 were called as state witnesses yesterday. In response to direct question from Attorney-General Carmichael, each flatly denied he was in the lynch mob, each said he knew nothing of the crime until the day after it occurred, and each testified the community was "quiet" with no hint of "public indignation" or excitement on the eve of the lynching.

They were Tom McCoy of Mogul, Ala.; Cratas Whitten, John White, Ovie Wright and Robert Kirkland all of Newville. Hes Bond and Grant Whitten, likewise accused, did not answer when called to testify by the court. Rupert Bond, Eck Wood and Mose Bond, the last three of the 10, were to testify this morning.

Attorneys Battle

The second development was a fist fight between Atty.-Gen. Carmichael and W. L. Lee, of Columbiana, chief defense counsel. It took place in the Supreme Court library just after luncheon recess. Lee claimed the road leading to the spot where the Negro was shot and hanged was closed for repairs and Carmichael said it was passable.

One word led to another and Lee struck Carmichael in the chest. Carmichael swung at Lee, missed him by inches, and friends pulled them apart.

The third development came just as Chief Justice John C. Anderson came out of the courtroom. As the chief justice stepped through a door, a photographer standing close to it snapped a picture of a group of waiting witnesses. The flash bulb exploded almost in the ear of the chief justice, who jumped and slashed at the photographer with his cane. The photographer ducked and the incident was closed.

Of the five accused men, McCoy testified he was "in Florida" during the hours of the lynching, while Wright, Whitten and White said they were "at home."

Stories Differ

A final flurry occurred in the courtroom as Robert Kirkland, last of the five, testified.

Under a barrage of questioning from the attorney-general, he denied he had heard of the attempted assault until "the day after the lynching." A few minutes later after several questions by Justice Joel B. Brown from the bench, he admitted he "went with Circuit Solicitor Farmer to see Bond the night before the lynching, and Mrs Bond was there."

"How do you reconcile that with your earlier statement you did not know of the reported attack until the day after the lynching?" Justice Brown asked.

His hands twisting in his lap Kirkland did not answer. After a tense moment the justice said "That's all."

Two Henry County Grand Juries before which Sheriff Corbitt testified have failed to return indictments against mob leaders and the last one recommended impeachment proceedings against the sheriff be dropped.

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Sheriff Exonerated, But Lynching Still Unsettled

Tight-Lipped Corbitt Goes Back To Abbeville After Supreme Court Trial—But Was Wrong Negro Killed? What About Members Of Mob?

By Hilton Butler
Post Staff Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, June 7.—Back to Abbeville has gone tight-lipped Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County—an unimpeached man; but two questions went along with him:

Was the wrong Negro lynched?

What action will be taken against the nine men the sheriff named as members of the mob?

There is a persistent report here today that "in about 10 days" there will be another action arising from America's No. 1 lynching victim of 1937, Wesley Johnson, 20, of Newville, accused of criminal assault.

Action Undetermined

Whether it would be a further effort on the part of the state, or special grand jury action in Henry County, no one in authority seemed ready to say.

But a cautious eye will be kept on Henry County for the next few days by state officials. They discount, however, the whisperings that personal reprisals might be attempted against the young sheriff by men named by him in the Supreme Court impeachment trial last week as members of the mob.

They also discount the probability of another Henry County Grand Jury bringing any indictments. Two previous juries failed to take action.

The next move, it was believed here, will have a state angle to it, although there is no appeal from the four-two decision of the Supreme Court declaring Sheriff Corbitt innocent of charges of "gross neglect, cowardice and connivance" on the night of Feb. 1, when a mob of 50 broke in the jail, found the proper cell keys, took Wes Johnson to the scene of the alleged attack and shot him to death, later hanging him to a tree for photographic purposes.

Wrong Negro

Was he innocent?

Had an excited sheriff, to satisfy the cry of a growing mob, arrested the wrong man?

"Yes!" shouted Atty.-Gen. Albert Carmichael. "The state offers to prove that the wrong Negro was lynched!"

On the ground that the guilt or innocence of a prisoner did not affect the duty of the sheriff to protect him, the Supreme Court declined to hear the evidence or to see the exhibits.

Among those exhibits is a shoe. It belonged to Wes Johnson. The Negro involved in the alleged attack left tracks. But the sheriff failed to take the simple step of measuring the shoe in the track, the state was ready to show. A few hours later it was too late. A heavy rain had washed all tracks away.

Time Element

Then there was the time element. The victim testified that the reported attack occurred between 11:15 and 11:30 a. m. The state had witnesses ready to prove that Wes Johnson was four miles away "washing an automobile" between 11:30 and noon.

In proof that "the right Negro was lynched," the defense was ready to offer the testimony of the alleged victim that the shirt worn by the Negro at the time of the reported attack was the same shirt Wes Johnson was wearing when she faced him a short time later in the sheriff's office.

It was also learned today that the defense had a "surprise witness" in reserve who would have testified, had the issue come up, that Wes Johnson confessed to the attack shortly after he was apprehended and that he also confessed to two previous similar crimes.

Carmichael Silent

As to whether any of this testimony will ever get a legal airing depends upon the nature of the action reported to be shaping up for launching "within the next 10 days."

Attorney-General Carmichael declined today to release the evidence he had assembled that "the wrong Negro was lynched," or to comment upon the refusal of the Supreme Court to admit it to the records. All exhibits and papers in the case remain, however, in the "pending" file in his office.

Return of Gov. Bibb Graves, who ordered the impeachment trial of Sheriff Corbitt is expected to expedite whatever action the state has under consideration as its next move in the case.

SHERIFF GIVEN MOB WARNING, LAWYER SAYS

State Contends Corbitt Knew Feeling Was At 'High Tension'

'TOOK NO PRECAUTION'

Prosecution Concludes Its Arguments In Trial Of County Official

By William Bennett
United Press Staff Correspondent

MONTGOMERY, June 5—Silas Garrett, assistant attorney-general, charged before the Alabama Supreme Court today that Sheriff J. L. Corbitt "had plenty of warning of public indignation" before the lynching of Wesley Johnson, accused Negro attacker, last February.

Summing up the evidence for the state in the impeachment trial of Corbitt, charged with negligence in protecting Johnson from a lynch mob, Garrett said testimony showed that the sheriff was warned on three separate occasions of mob feeling.

"The sheriff gave Johnson no more protection that he would have given a Negro charged with stealing a cow, despite the warnings of hatred and mob feeling," Garrett said.

Cites Records

Citing the reasons for holding public officials responsible for lynchings, Garrett said that in the 11 years prior to 1901, when such a provision was put into the State Constitution, Alabama had 179 lynchings.

In the 11 years following, the state had only 67 such crimes, and in the past 25 years only 47, Garrett said.

Testifying in his own defense, the heavy-set 40-year-old sheriff yesterday flatly denied the state's charges. He said he had no warning of the mob that stormed his jail at midnight on Feb. 1 and took the Negro, who was held on charges of assaulting a white woman.

"I was in my pajamas, standing by my bed and was covered by shotguns from all sides," he said. "I didn't have a chance to stop them."

Searched Roads

Under cross-examination by Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael, he said he had followed the mob to the door of his living quarters in the jail and watched the last of "10 or 12" cars disappear down the street. His father, the jailer, went back to bed, he said, while he dressed and telephoned the circuit solicitor, Hubert Farmer, that "they got that Negro."

He said he called his chief deputy and the two rode 44 miles over county roads until daybreak looking for the mob. He admitted they had not gone over the road to the Tumbleton community where the alleged attack occurred and the Negro was lynched.

He said he had recognized nine members of the mob in the jail and named them as follows:

"Robert Kirkland, Tom McCoy, Hes Bond, Mose Bond, Rupert Bond (husband of the assaulted woman), John White, Cratas Whitten, Grant Whitten and Eck Wood." He denied identifying Ocie Wright as a mob member.

Five of the nine denied from the witness stand in the impeachment trial that they were present or knew of the lynching until later.

Wrong Negro Hinted

What action may be taken against them was not made known by state officials. Two Henry County Grand Juries have investigated the lynching and failed to return indictments against them although the sheriff testified before both juries.

Attorney-General Carmichael yesterday offered to prove "beyond a shadow of a doubt" that the mob "lynched the wrong Negro." When the defense objected, Chief Justice John C. Anderson declined to permit introduction of such evidence on the ground the sheriff was charged, under the law, with the protection of all prisoners, and "their guilt or innocence has no bearing on this case."

Later, however, the attorney-general succeeded in writing into the record testimony of the Negro's victim that the attack occurred at 11:15 a. m. J. H. Oates, employer of Johnson, testified he saw the slain Negro "washing my car" four miles from the scene of the crime "a little before 12."

What Next?

Two grand juries in Henry County failed to find a single true bill in connection with the lynching of a Negro last February despite testimony of the sheriff accusing several citizens as members of the mob who took the prisoner from the County Jail.

Saturday the Alabama Supreme Court by a vote of four to two absolved Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of charges of neglect of duty.

So what next?

Our senators and congressmen inject a sectional angle into the crime of lynching by saying to the Federal Government: "Hands off. We will handle this problem in our own way."

But what way? By closing our eyes to murder and mob violence and refusing to bring to justice a single guilty person?

We recognize the weaknesses and imperfections of the anti-lynching bill now pending in Washington but we can find no defense for the member of Congress who merely harps on its flaws and makes no attempt to arrive at a more advantageous substitute.

The lyncher is a murderer, a menace to orderly society, and should be treated as such.

Anniston, Ala. Star
June 5, 1937

Seeking Justice

In one of the relatively few times in history a state is taking determined steps to discover in orderly court the truth about a lynching, says The Birmingham Age-Herald. Too often in the past investigations into mob activities have come to naught, and not infrequently the public was left with the impression that little serious effort was made to discover the truth and punish the guilty.

The Age-Herald continues: "Today we have a different story to tell. Alabama is without any doubt making a serious and intelligent effort to get at the facts concerning the lynching last February in Henry County of Wes Johnson. The Governor and the attorney general have been unrelenting in their determination to discover the truth and obtain justice in this now famous case. They deserve the highest praise and support.

"Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, from whom the Negro was taken and lynched, is facing impeachment charges before the State Supreme Court. Sheriff Corbitt said at the time of the outrage that he could identify some of the members of the mob and Thursday in open court 10 persons were charged with having participated in the lynching party.

"The evidence presented yesterday to the effect that the wrong Negro may have been lynched makes this crime even more horrible. At the time of the murder there were many persons who pointed out that under the circumstances it was impossible to be sure that Wes Johnson, the dead Negro, had been guilty of the alleged crime. That is true in nearly all such cases. Arrests are made in hot haste, and mobs gather and act blindly and stupidly. The Henry County mob is no exception.

"The Supreme Court of Alabama today is hearing one of the most important cases ever brought before it. If under its direction the truth of this whole ghastly affair can be brought out and appropriate action taken a blow of untold magnitude will be dealt lynching and mob violence. Let the attorney general continue whatever prosecution the evidence warrants to the end that complete justice shall obtain in Alabama. Not only should the guilty be punished, but if Sheriff Corbitt is innocent of neglect of duty, he is entitled to the vindication of the law's formal word for it."

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
June 7, 1937

A sheriff in Alabama is on trial under impeachment proceedings charged with failure to protect a Negro from a mob. The attorney-general of the State stated that not only did the sheriff fail to protect the prisoner, who was dispatched by a mob, but that an innocent man had been taken by the sheriff because of hostile public sentiment and that the real culprit was still at large, four months after the mob outrage. Such is the way of mobs.

The Alabama sheriff was probably not guilty of negligence and cowardice as charged in the lynching of that negro prisoner; but if we are slow in his territory and accused of anything, we are going to surrender to the constable or chief of police.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 8, 1937

The Case Is Not Closed

Last Saturday, with two justices dissenting, the Supreme Court of Alabama declared Sheriff J. L. Corbitt innocent of charges filed against him in the impeachment proceedings brought after the lynching of his prisoner, Wes Johnson. This decision by the Supreme Court exonerates the sheriff, but, of course, should not close the Henry County lynching case. No such case should ever be closed until justice is done. A number of men were named by the sheriff as having participated in the mob. It is one of the first times in history that a sheriff has accused persons in court of having been members of a lynching party.

Sheriff Corbitt and Attorney General Carmichael should now cooperate to obtain another Grand Jury investigation. Indictments are in order if it can be shown that the sheriff's allegations are well founded. With public naming of alleged mob members having now occurred it is unthinkable that the matter should be dropped. What so far has been done to bring justice has acted, in the view of many, to stay the federal anti-lynching legislation, but this advantage now might be lost if the case should be permitted to die without further action.

A great lesson has already been given law enforcement officers by the action of Gov. Graves and Attorney General Carmichael. They have performed a high public duty in their handling of this case, and the people of Alabama who support law and order are indebted to them. The attorney general did not get a conviction of impeachment against the sheriff, but he showed that the state will not tolerate mob violence and will go to any extreme to stamp it out.

It is up to the Henry County officials now to act with the same statesmanship and courage as have the governor and attorney general.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
June 11, 1937

SHERIFF'S EXONERATION HELPS HENRY COUNTY

Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry county has been exonerated of negligence in the lynching of a Negro who was taken from the jail at Abbeville four months ago and riddled with bullets for having attacked a white woman.

Acquittal of the sheriff by the Supreme Court climaxed zealous efforts on the part of the state to fix the blame for the nation's first lynching in 1936 and more or less fell in line with the reports of two Henry county grand juries which found no indictments.

Exonerated by the highest court in the state, Sheriff Corbitt has the additional satisfaction of having conducted himself in an admirable manner throughout the entire proceedings and no one doubts, since this fact is supported by testimony, that he did all within his power to live up to the duties demanded of him as sheriff.

To be guilty of disregarding the sworn duties of his office by voluntarily turning his prisoner over to a mob, such as was charged to the Henry sheriff, is a grave indictment against law and order, and Henry county can well be proud that its sheriff has been exonerated of this accusation.

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Dothan, Ala. Eagle
May 23, 1937

OUR SOLICITOR AND OUR ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Henry County lynching case is now dead, and Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer buries it with the following funeral oration:

I have been with two different grand juries in this matter, each composed of as high-class gentlemen as are to be found anywhere. I know that a painstaking investigation has been conducted both times. No indictments have been returned. And now, so far as I am personally concerned, the book can be closed on the whole unfortunate affair.

When a grand jury fails to indict there may be a number of reasons. In the Henry County Case, perhaps, it is the viewpoint that is born in the desire to protect Southern womanhood from crimes of this nature at all odds, and to shield the victims from the embarrassment and humiliation of going through the ordeal of a trial with its many unpleasant details. At least, I am convinced that such a desire, or determination, is deeply inbedded in the minds and hearts of our people.

I do not believe in mob law, but it appears to me that further agitation of this matter will not result in any good.

These carefully-chosen words belong in the class with all the old-fashioned, bombastic, orations of the windy professional politicians who have distinguished the South for generations.

They are buxom and voluputous words, and though they leave an intelligent man cold, doubtless they will entice and enthrall many a One Hundred Percenter who thinks with his appetites and emotions and who is a member of the "I Am Against Mob Law But" club.

This being so, The Eagle hastens to be the first to publicly congratulate the Solicitor.

The rumor has risen and will not down that the Solicitor's cosuming ambition is to defeat Henry Seeagall for his congressional seat. Can it be, then, that he has fired the perfect opening shot in the campaign?

Not being an astute politician, we wouldn't know.

But it is conceivable that the Solicitor's honey-dripping words may ultimately sour in his mouth—or is The Eagle too naive when it suggests that there may be more voters in the Third Congressional District who prize statesmanship rather than politics?

One likes to believe that the majority of our people cling to the contrasting view as expressed by Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael:

"To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this.

"Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law.

"As the chief law enforcement officer of this State I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the Aattorney General of this State those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously.

"The impeachment proceedings will proceed and be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the Attorney General is capable of putting forth. The framers of our Constitution did not accidently provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court."

Sheriff Corbitt has repeatedly stated that he recognized some of the members of the mob. The public is left wondering why he did not name them before the grand jury—and will he name them when he goes on trial before the Supreme Court?

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
May 21, 1937

STATE TO PUSH IMPEACHMENT

Carmichael Declares Determination to Oust Corbitt in Lynching Case

The state of Alabama will use every resource at its command in prosecuting impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry county, charged with negligence in the lynching of a negro, Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael declared Friday. Carmichael said a personal investigation into circumstances connected with the lynching of the negro accused of attacking a white woman had convinced him "beyond doubt impeachment proceedings should be instituted."

The case, now set for hearing before the state supreme court June 3, was instigated by Carmichael at the request of Gov. Bibb Graves who said he was going to "put an end to lynching in this state." The negro, Wes Johnson, was lynched and his body riddled with bullets by a mob of nearly 100 armed men who took him from the Henry county jail soon after the alleged attack on the white woman.

Grand Jury Upholds Corbitt

Carmichael's statement that impeachment proceedings would be prosecuted vigorously came after a Henry county grand jury Wednesday at Abbeville returned a "no bill" in its investigation and recommended charges against the sheriff be dropped.

"We are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama state officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character are doing their duty and will continue to do it," Carmichael said soon after conferring with Governor Graves Thursday night. "The recent report of the grand jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the supreme court of Alabama."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 21, 1937

Proceed!

For the second time a Henry County Grand Jury returns a no bill in the Wes Johnson lynching case. The Grand Jury also recommends to the governor that impeachment charges against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt be dropped.

Three months ago Wes Johnson, suspected of having attacked a white woman, was arrested and held prisoner by Sheriff Corbitt and his father, the jailer. A mob demanded and obtained the release of Johnson, hanged him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets. It was the first lynching in 1937, and the whole nation was shocked. Gov. Graves immediately went on record as saying that he would push an investigation to the end that those guilty be punished.

Sheriff Corbitt declared that he had done everything in his power to protect the prisoner from the mob. Furthermore, he said that he could identify, and would identify, some members of the mob. Has Sheriff Corbitt named a single member of the mob? And what has he done to bring about the apprehension of any persons in the mob?

In his own interest it would seem better for the impeachment proceedings to be completed with a Supreme Court verdict. The public generally desires more knowledge of this case than a closed Grand Jury hearing has revealed.

While the entire disgrace of a lynching can never be removed, at least the state can do all in its power to punish those who have flagrantly violated its laws. Alabama, and the public officials responsible for upholding Alabama's laws, continue on trial before the bar of public opinion. Let the governor and the attorney general press this matter to an early and satisfactory conclusion.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 21, 1937

State To Ignore Grand Jury In Henry County

Attorney General Says Sheriff's Ouster Will Be Pushed Vigorously

Recommendation contained in the recent report of the Henry County grand jury, that impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of that county, be dismissed, will have no effect whatever upon the pending action which is set for hearing before the Alabama Supreme Court on June 3.

After a conference last night with Gov. Graves, Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael announced the Governor at whose request the impeachment proceedings was filed, had directed him to pursue and prosecute the proceedings vigorously, and that he will do so.

The action was brought following removal from the county jail at Abbeville and lynching by a mob, of Wesley Johnson, negro farm hand, held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman.

As to the grand jury's recommendation, Gov. Graves said yesterday: "Nothing that a grand jury can say, in my opinion, can affect jurisdiction of the State Supreme Court, before which the impeachment proceedings already have been filed. It appears up to the courts now, in my opinion."

Following his conference with the Governor, the attorney general issued the following statement:

His Statement

"I have conferred with Gov. Graves about the recent report of the Grand Jury in Henry County. Gov. Graves knew about the Grand Jury report at the time of our conversation. The Gov. directs me to pursue and prosecute the impeachment proceedings in the Supreme Court vigorously. To say that I will do this is putting it mildly.

"Just here, let me say this: Immediately after the lynching, Gov. Graves conducted a most careful investigation of the lynching. While

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Mobile would be opened but thought it probable that next week would see at least one and perhaps two stores opened with more to follow as leases are signed and local conditions are met.

While Chairman Baldwin did not say so directly, the writer learned Thursday that there was a disposition on the part of store site owners in the smaller cities of the State to "hold up" the State on the matter of rents. It can be said definitely that the State will not be held up on rents and wherever such hold-ups are attempted, there will be a delay in the opening of stores.

Filling Stations Hit

There are scores and scores of filling stations in Alabama which have a temporary permit to sell beer. Under section 28 of the act no beer can be sold by these filling stations to persons seated in automobiles. All persons desiring to buy beer at a filling station are required under the act to leave their automobile and seat themselves at a table before or while being served beer. Very few of these filling stations have tables for serving beer but it appears that they will have to provide the tables before they can do business without a chance to lose their license. If they serve beer in violation of the law they are liable to have their license revoked without notice.

The writer's advice to those who have beer licenses in Montgomery is to require customers to leave their cars, enter the licensee's place of business, seat themselves at tables and have the beer served there. Beer cannot be served at a counter under the law and it is probable that the attorney general of Alabama will make a ruling some time today regarding the serving of beer by licensees.

In addition to filling stations over the State, there are scores of places which have a temporary beer license the Governor was conducting an investigation I was also conducting an investigation. After a most exhaustive and painstaking investigation, we were both convinced that the sheriff ought to be impeached. If Gov. Graves had not been thoroughly convinced that the sheriff ought to be impeached, the Governor would never have directed me to institute impeachment proceedings. The Governor does not carelessly, and without much investigating, direct the impeachment of an officer. My personal investigation of the circumstances and conditions under which the lynching took place convinced me beyond doubt that impeachment proceedings should be instituted. The recent report of the Grand Jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The impeachment proceedings will proceed and will be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the attorney general is capable of putting forth.

"The framers of our Constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.

Feels Keenly

"I want to take this occasion to say that the Governor of Alabama and the attorney general of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter; that we are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama State officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character are doing their duty and will continue to do it.

"To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this State I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the attorney general of this State, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great State at my command."

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
May 20, 1937

Second Body Is Recessed After Lynching Probe

Widening the scope of their investigation of the lynching of Wes Johnson, eighteen-year-old Negro farmhand, to the extent of recommending and urging that impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt on charges of negligence be dismissed, the second Henry County grand jury to probe the case was in recess today after returning the second no-bill in the case

Although in his charge yesterday Judge D. C. Halstead had told the jurors the only matter before them was "the identity of the persons comprising the mob", resolutions signed by each member of the inquisitorial body, had been sent to Gov. Bibb Graves and Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael asking that proceeding against Sheriff Corbitt be dropped. Judge Halstead had not mentioned the proceedings or any official in his charge.

Meanwhile, Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer, when asked if a third investigation is likely, said "so far as I personally am concerned, the book can be closed on the whole unfortunate affir."

"I have been with two different grand juries in this matter, each composed of as high-class gentleman as are to be found anywhere," said the solicitor. "I know that a painstaking investigation has been conducted both times. No indictments have been returned. And now so far as I am personally concerned, the book can be closed on the whole unfortunate affair.

"When a grand jury fails to indict there may be a number of reasons," he said. "In the Henry County case, perhaps, it is the viewpoint that is born in the desire to protect Southern womanhood from crimes of this nature at all odds, and to shield the victims from the embarrassment and humiliation of going through the ordeal of a trial with its many unpleasant details. At least, I am convinced that such a desire, or determination, is deeply imbedded in the minds and hearts of our people.

"I do not believe in mob law, but it appears to me that further agitation of this matter will not result in any good," said the solicitor.

The jury reported to Judge Halstead that "we have investigated and considered all of the available evidence in this matter and herewith return a no-bill."

"In our further investigation of the circumstances surrounding the taking of the prisoner from the County jail," the jury reported further, "we do not find any evidence of what in our opinion would be any wrong doing on the part of the sheriff our County . . ." The jury then set forth a resolution which it asked be sent Gov. Graves and Atty.-Gen. Carmichael.

The report was signed by W. S. Sconyers, Headland farmer, as foreman, while the resolution, mailed to the State officials shortly after the body had reported, bore the signature of each member of the jury.

The first jury probe of the lynching was made at a special grand jury session, called on orders of Gov. Bibb Graves, resulted in no indictments, and the report said the body did not look into whether Sheriff Corbitt was at fault with a view of impeachment proceedings.

Johnson was taken from the Henry County jail by a mob of about 100 men the night of Feb. 2 and later found slain in the Tumbleton community, about 50 yards from where he is accused of criminally attacking a white matron. Officers said Johnson had confessed to the attack.

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STATE TO PROBE USE OF LYNCH LAW IN HENRY

Death By Mob Violence Is First With Graves As Alabama Governor

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Feb. 3.—The state today launched a probe of facts surrounding the lynching of Wes Johnson, Henry County Negro, charged with attacking a young white woman. The Negro was taken from the Abbeville Jail, hanged, and his body riddled with bullets early yesterday.

Gov. Bibb Graves instructed Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael to "make a thorough and complete investigation" to determine whether impeachment proceedings should be brought against any of the officers involved for neglect of duty. He placed the State Highway Patrol at the disposal of the attorney-General to complete the investigation.

In a telephone conversation with Sheriff J. Louis Corbett of Henry County, Governor Graves yesterday questioned the officer as to why he had not informed the executive office of the lynching until 12 hours after it happened.

Sheriff Corbett told the governor a mob of approximately 40 men stormed the Abbeville Jail, in which he lived, held him and his father, J. N. Corbett, prisoners, forced open the Negro's cell with a crowbar, and took him back to the scene of the attack on a plantation near Tumbleton. There he was hanged and shot.

The sheriff said he was threatened by a mob for refusing to turn over the Negro to them, and was held captive until after they had left Abbeville with the prisoner.

The lynching was the first to occur in Alabama while Bibb Graves was governor. He had none during the four years of his first term, and had now served two years of his second term without a lynching.

Lynching Inquiry Proves Fruitless

ABBEVILLE, Ala., Feb. 4 (AP) — A Henry county grand jury failed today to return any indictments in its investigation of the lynching last Monday of a Negro accused of assaulting a white woman.

The jurors also reported they were of the opinion no officials had been negligent in performance of their duties.

OUSTER SOUGHT AFTER LYNCHING

Impeachment Papers To Be Filed Against Sheriff In Henry County

By United Press.

MONTGOMERY, Feb. 4. — Impeachment proceedings will be instituted immediately against Sheriff J. L. Corbett of Henry County whose 18-year-old Negro prisoner was lynched Monday night, Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael announced today.

Papers will be filed with the Alabama Supreme Court charging Corbett "with neglect of duty" as soon as they can be prepared, Carmichael said.

Wes Johnson, the Negro who was lynched, was held in the jail at Abbeville charged with the assault of a white woman. Corbett's keys were taken from a locked room by force while he stood by, covered by the guns of the mob, he reported.

Johnson was riddled with shot by the 30 or 40 men who took him from the jail. It was the first lynching in Alabama in more than two years and the first in the nation this year.

Carmichael announced that Gov. Bibb Graves was addressing a letter to Judge D. C. Halstead of Henry County Circuit asking him to call a special session of the grand jury to investigate the lynching.

Melvin Hutson of Decatur, solicitor in Morgan and Cullman Counties, will be dispatched to Abbeville immediately to take charge of the investigation of the lynching, Carmichael said.

The impeachment proceedings, ordered by the governor, will be handled by the attorney-general's office. Sate highway patrolmen who investigated the lynching reported their findings to the governor last night.

SHERIFF BLAMED AFTER LYNCHING

Impeachment of Officer Is Demanded by Alabama Attorney General

ABBEVILLE, Ala., Feb. 4 (AP)—Impeachment proceedings against a sheriff and a special grand jury investigation were ordered today as Alabama moved to "bring to justice" members of a mob which Monday night lynched a 19-year-old Henry county Negro accused of attacking a white woman.

Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead summoned a special grand jury session for Friday, and Attorney General A. A. Carmichael said at Montgomery he would file impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Louis Corbett, of Henry county "at once."

Governor Bibb Graves at Montgomery directed Carmichael to file the impeachment proceedings and dispatched an order to Judge Halstead to call a special grand jury investigation, after Captain Potter Smith of the Alabama highway patrol had reported on a private investigation conducted for the governor and attorney general.

Judge Halstead said at Dothan the special grand jury call was placed in the hands of Henry county officials today before he heard unofficially Governor Graves had mailed him instructions.

Sheriff Corbett, who previously said he recognized several members of the mob, reiterated today his willingness to "identify them" before a grand jury or court.

Sheriff Faces Ouster Move At Abbeville

Impeachment Started By State; Special Grand Jury Also Summoned

ABBEVILLE, ALA., Feb. 4.—(AP)—Impeachment proceedings against a sheriff and a special grand jury investigation were ordered today as Alabama moved to "bring to justice" members of a mob which Monday night lynched a 19-year-old Henry County negro accused of attacking a white woman.

Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead summoned a special grand jury session for Friday, and Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael said at Montgomery he would file impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Louis Corbett, of Henry County "at once."

Sheriff's Comment

"I did everything in my power," Sheriff Corbett commented when he learned of the impeachment proceedings order, which Carmichael said would be based upon charges of "neglect of duty" in allowing an armed mob of approximately 50 men to take the negro, Wes Johnson, from jail here.

Gov. Graves at Montgomery directed Carmichael to file the impeachment proceedings and dispatched an order to Judge Halstead to call a special grand jury investigation, after Captain Potter Smith of the Alabama Highway Patrol had reported on a private investigation conducted for the governor and attorney general.

Judge Halstead said at Dothan the special grand jury call was placed in the hands of Henry County officials today before he heard unofficially Gov. Graves had mailed him instructions.

Sheriff Corbett, who previously said he recognized several members of the mob, reiterated today his willingness to "identify them" before a grand jury or court.

Negro's Body Found

Johnson, the negro, was taken from Henry County Jail Monday night, and his bullet-riddled body was found early Tuesday hanging from a tree in Tumbleton community, where the white woman allegedly was assaulted in her home last Saturday. Johnson was arrested Sunday night.

Sheriff Corbett said he and his father Jailor J. N. Corbett, were held prisoners by the mob while members forced open the negro's cell with a crow-bar. He said they also were threatened by the group of men who traveled in about 25 automobiles.

Governor Says Sheriff Guilty Of Neglect

Gov. Graves yesterday called on Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to file impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbett of Henry County. Following receipt of the communication from the Governor containing the request, the Attorney General said it will be complied with and the action brought. Text of the Governor's letter to Mr. Carmichael follows:

"Hon. A. A. Carmichael, Attorney General for State of Alabama, Montgomery, Ala. Dear Sir:

"During the night of Monday, the first day of February, 1937, or thereabouts, one Wesley Johnson, a prisoner, was taken from the Henry County Jail by unauthorized persons and was put to death.

"It appears from information received by me and from an examination which I caused to be made of this occurrence that J. L. Corbett, as Sheriff of Henry County, was guilty of neglect, as sheriff, as a result of which said prisoner was unlawfully taken from the jail of Henry County and put to death; or was guilty of a grave fault in the conduct of his office as sheriff, as a result of which said prisoner was taken from the Henry County Jail and put to death; or was guilty of wilful neglect of duty in this matter; or that his acts in this connection show that he is incompetent to discharge the duties of his office, as sheriff.

Order To Begin

"I, therefore, as Governor of the State of Alabama, under the authority conferred upon me by Section 4520 of the Code of Alabama of 1923, now direct, in writing, you, as Attorney General of the State of Alabama, to commence impeachment proceedings against J. L. Corbett, as Sheriff of Henry County, and prosecute the same as provided by law in such cases. I suggest that such proceedings be instituted in the Supreme Court of Alabama. Yours very truly, (Signed) Bibb Graves, Governor."

Stating he had just received this letter from the Governor, Atty. Gen. Carmichael said: "The law authorizes the Governor to instruct the Attorney General to institute impeachment proceedings against a sheriff, when, in the judgment of the Governor it should be done. In accordance with the instructions given me by the Governor, impeachment proceedings will be instituted against the sheriff as by law provided."

Smith's Report

The Governor's letter was written after he and the Attorney General had received a verbal report late Wednesday, from Capt. Potter Smith of the State Highway Patrol, one of three officers of that Department detailed by Chief Walter K. McAdory at Gov. Graves's direction to go to Henry County and make a complete investigation of the lynching of Johnson, a negro farm hand.

Arrested on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman, Johnson was placed in a cell in the Henry County Jail at Abbeville, Monday afternoon. Late that night a band of some 50 men, overpowered the sheriff, entered the jail, seized the negro and took him away with them. Early next morning Johnson's bullet riddled body was found hanging from a tree near Headland.

Formal inquiry into the lynching will be made by the Henry County Grand Jury, called into special session by Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead of

announced that impeachment charges would be filed against the Henry County sheriff. So far nothing has been done. The state still does not know who killed Wes Johnson, despite the fact that the sheriff said he could identify several in the mob. Why this delay?

Headland. The grand jury will convene at Abbeville at 10 a.m. today and will be in charge of Circuit Solicitor Hubert Farmer, of Dothan. Capt. Smith, and Sergeants J. W. McClung and T. J. Carlisle of the Highway Patrol, who assisted him in his recent inquiry, will testify before the inquisitorial body today. Capt. Smith and Sergt. Carlisle left for Abbeville last night. Sergt. McClung was already there.

Age-Herald, Birmingham, Ala., February 12, 1937

Who Killed Wes Johnson?

A week and a half have passed since the lynching of Wes Johnson, but the state has made no headway in its feeble efforts to apprehend his slayers. A Henry County Grand Jury investigating the matter returned no indictments. Atty. Gen. Carmichael, at the suggestion of the governor, an-

Further Inquiry Needed Into The Henry County Lynching

After the lynching in Henry County last week, Sheriff Corbitt said he had recognized some members of the mob which took his prisoner from him, and that he would identify them. The special Grand Jury called to investigate the case returned no indictments. Presumably, Sheriff Corbitt did not identify any members of the mob in his appearance before the Grand Jury, else the jury could not have failed to return indictments.

Perhaps Sheriff Corbitt withheld the identifications he said he could make in order to present them in his own defense against the the impeachment proceedings ordered filed by Gov. Graves. In that case, the impeachment proceedings will provide the next inquiry into the lynching.

At any rate, further investigation into this crime is needed. The state cannot afford to let the effort to apprehend members of the mob drop with the uneventful report of the Grand Jury. Gov. Graves, who has said that so long as he is governor mob rule will not be tolerated in Alabama, may be counted on, we trust, to continue inquiries into the lynching until the state gets to the bottom of the affair, if it is humanly possible to do so.

A Fine Record Broken

Impeachment proceedings ordered by Governor Graves against Sheriff J. L. Corbett of Henry County and then rescinded pending further investigation will be watched with interest by every Alabamian—citizen and law enforcement officer alike—who deplores mob violence and has contributed anything toward keeping the state's record for no lynchings unbroken for more than two years.

We do not condemn Sheriff Corbett without fair hearing. It is possible a trial would develop that he is an innocent victim of circumstances over which he had no control. Confronted by an unreasoning mob of armed men no one can be sure just what he might do. In this particular instance the mob was not masked. Since the sheriff has stated he recognized a number of its members it is not unreasonable that a reminder of his oath to arrest and prosecute every one of them would have halted their mad determination to murder.

Lynchings can be stopped where officers of the law are determined to stop them. But they will not stop as long as citizens and officials wink at mob violence.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
February 5, 1937

Gov. Graves is peeved about the Henry county lynching because it spoiled his record of two terms as governor, during which time no lynchings took place in Alabama. His feelings were hurt— but what about the Negro?

Anniston, Ala. Star
February 12, 1937

Proceed, Governor Graves

On the day before the Henry County special grand jury gave a report of its deliberations on the Abbeville lynching, The Montgomery Advertiser carried this penetrating observation in its editorial columns: "It is all very well for Governor Graves to demand a grand jury investigation of the recent lynching in Henry County. That means that the grand jurors, some of whom may have been in the mob, will return a no-bill. They nearly always do."

As we know, the Henry County Grand Jury did return a no-bill, serving notice that legally delegated citizens would do nothing about the unlawful slaying of a human being. The jury "passed the buck" by inferring that, since Governor Graves had ordered impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Louis Corbett, from whom the Negro was taken, it would do nothing.

The situation now clearly is up to Governor Graves and Attorney General Albert Carmichael. The promptness and dispatch with which they moved immediately after learning of the heinous crime is heartening to those who wish to eradicate from this nation the ruthless mob spirit that, acting stealthily in the darkness of the night, assumes a life and death power that is an ugly blot on Christian civilization.

It is more to be regretted that practically all lynchings in the South have Negroes as the victims of such mob frenzy and injustice. This day, February 12, the birthday anniversary of the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, would be a significant day on which to establish a new milestone in America. It should mark the beginning of an era in which lynchings are a thing unknown, an act so despicable that no citizen will countenance it.

Proceed, Governor Graves, quickly with the impeachment. The fear of God and fear of the Law can drench a frenzied mob spirit more quickly than anything else.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
February 5, 1937

HENRY LYNCH...

PROBED BY STATE

Woman's Attacker Is Taken From Jail By Armed Mob

A Henry county mob Thursday had levied on the life of a Negro for an attack on a white woman and as a sequel to the first outbreak of mob violence in the Wiregrass in more than ten years, state highway patrolmen were pushing an investigation at the orders of Gov. Bibb Graves.

Victim of the lynching was Wes Johnson, 22-year-old tenant on the John Harper Oates plantation near Tumbleton. He was seized at the Henry county jail at Abbeville shortly after midnight Monday by a squad of armed men who overpowered Sheriff Louie Corbett and his father, J. N. Corbett.

From the jail, he was rushed to a spot near where he supposedly attacked a young farm matron last Saturday. There he was strung to a tree and his body pumped full of bullets and left for morbid crowds to gaze at until cut down later in the day by county authorities.

The elder Corbett, who is jailer, said the first he or his son, who sleeps in another room, knew of the mob's presence was when a group of armed men came into the sheriff's bed room and ordered him to lie still in bed "or we will kill you."

"Then," said the jailor, "I walked into the room and met two shotguns in my face. They told me to stand there and not move." While he and his son were held at bay, Corbett declared, several of the mob who had a crowbar pried open a tool box and removed the jail keys.

With the keys they went to the Negro's cell and removed him. The Negro was led from the jail between two men and never said a word, the jailer said, adding that 'as far as I know he never said a word while he was in jail.' Johnson was arrested Sunday.

Unofficial, but reliable, reports were that the attacked woman had positively identified Johnson as her assailant and that she picked him out of four Negroes brought to her home for identification.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
February 5, 1937

JURY IS TOLD TO FIND LYNCHERS

Judge Issues Instructions For Thorough Probe In Abbeville Case

By United Press.

ABBEVILLE, Feb. 5.—A coroner's jury and a special agent of Gov. Bibb Graves appeared before a special Henry County Grand Jury which is investigating the lynching of a 19-year-old Negro accused of the assault of a white woman.

Fact of the lynching was established by the grand jury from the coroner's jury, it was learned. Then the body summoned Capt. Potter Smith of the State Highway Patrol. Smith investigated the lynching at the orders of Governor Graves.

Following Smith's investigation, the governor ordered the impeachment of Sheriff J. L. Corbett on charges of neglect of duty. The Negro, Wes Johnson, was taken from Corbett's jail Monday night by an armed mob of about 50 men. Johnson's bullet-riddled body was found hanging from a tree.

To Finish Today

The grand jury was expected to finish its investigation some time today. Corbett was present while the investigation progressed, but there was no indication as to whether he would be called.

Solicitor Hubert Farmer of Dothan was in charge of the investigation. It was understood the attorney-general had canceled an order delegating Melvin Hutson, Decatur solicitor, to conduct the investigation after Farmer protested.

Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead charged the jury to get to the bottom of the lynching, regardless of who may be affected.

"Let your investigation cover not only the ascertainment of those who committed the crime, but also the possible dereliction of any officer of the law whose duty it was to prevent its commission, including the judge of this court," he charged the grand jurors.

"The good name of the state is at stake and you are to leave no stone unturned to bring the guilty parties to justice," Judge Halstead said.

The 18 grand jurors are principally farmers and merchants of Abbeville and the vicinity.

Alabama

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

5592

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The Lynching In Henry County

Alabama, which for years now has had one of the best records among the Southern states in the matter of lynchings, is the scene of the nation's first lynching in 1937. An 18-year-old Negro, accused of assaulting a young white woman, was lynched Monday night in Henry County. It is a great pity that a group of some 50 men should have outraged the law in this way, taken a human life without due trial and marred Alabama's relatively good record.

Let no one think that the crime of lynching is any longer condoned by the people of Alabama, or of any other state. It has been obvious for years that public sentiment did not uphold lynchings, as some have pretended to believe. There can no longer be any doubt on this score since the publication of the American Institute of Public Opinion's poll last Sunday on sentiment with regard to making lynching a federal crime. In the South 65 per cent of the people were shown to be in favor of a federal law against lynching, and in the nation 70 per cent. Since even among those who condemn lynching there is in the South some opposition to a federal statute on the subject, Southern sentiment against lynching is certainly much stronger than the 65 per cent favoring a federal anti-lynching law.

The reaction to this Henry County lynching in official circles is most gratifying. Gov. Graves, saying that so long as he is governor Alabama will not tolerate mob rule, has ordered a thorough investigation into the crime. Let the investigation proceed at once. If any of the lynchers can be brought to justice, Alabama will have done much to atone for the crime.

LYNCHING PROBE IS BEING PUSHED

Graves Orders Impeachment If Facts Warrant In

Abbeville Affair

The Birmingham News 2-3-37

ABBEVILLE, Ala.—(AP)—State and county authorities, admonished by Gov. Graves that "mob rule shall not prevail in Alabama," pushed investigation today of the lynching of an 18-year-old Negro, accused of assaulting a white woman.

The Negro, Wes Johnson, was taken from Henry County Jail here Monday night by an armed mob. His bullet-riddled body was found swinging from a limb in a woodland not far from nearby Headland early yesterday.

At Montgomery, Gov. Graves ordered Atty. Gen. Carmichael to make a thorough investigation and to "bring impeachments proceedings against any official if found warranted."

The governor also ordered highway patrol investigators into the case, and told Chief Walter K. McAdory to cooperate fully with the attorney general.

Sheriff Louie Corbett, who said he recognized several persons among the 50-odd armed men who made up the lynch mob, was conducting a private investigation and had sought advice from Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead and Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer at Dothan.

Judge Halstead, who conferred with Sheriff Corbett regarding a special Grand Jury investigation, said at Dothan today his actions would await a report from the Henry County coroner.

The sheriff said the armed mob arrived unexpectedly Monday night and held him and his father, Jailer J. N. Corbett, prisoners while they forced open the Negro's cell with a crowbar. They drove off in about 25 cars after threatening him, the sheriff said.

The Negro, arrested Sunday night, was being held for alleged attack upon a white woman, alone in her home Saturday in rural Tumbleton community.

Probate Judge J. P. Mitchell said it was reported the woman was under care of a physician.

Johnson was the nation's first reported lynching victim in 1937.

Mississippi Is Proud Of Year Without Lynching

JACKSON, Miss. —(AP)— Viewing Mississippi's spotless lynching record for 1936, the first year without a lynching since "the turn of the century," Gov. Hugh White today congratulated sheriffs and peace officers.

Gov. White said figures prepared by the Tuskegee Institute for Negroes showed that Mississippi had no lynchings last year. One doubtful case in Jones County was described as a homicide.

Lynch Probe Action Rests With Jurors

Montgomery Advertiser 2-6-37

Abbeville Sheriff, Father Heard During All-Day Investigation Of Case

J. Hubert Farmer told The Advertiser by telephone last night that the Henry County special Grand Jury would reconvene at 9 a.m., today, with a report expected, probably about noon.

ABBEVILLE, ALA., Feb. 5.—(AP)—Whether Henry County will take court action against mob members who lynched a 19-year-old negro this week, rested with a grand jury tonight following an all-day investigation.

Summoned into special session on orders from Gov. Graves, the jurors finished interviewing witnesses during the afternoon. Later it was reported unofficially members were "ready to begin drawing their report."

Sheriff Louis Corbett, who said he recognized several members of the 50-man mob when the negro was taken from jail here Monday night, was among the last witnesses called. He had no comment afterward, but previoulsy said:

"I'll identify those I recognized for a grand jury or in court."

The sheriff, threatened with impeachment proceedings by Gov. Graves, said after the negro's bullet-riddled body was found hanging from a tree Tuesday that he and his father, Jailer J. N. Corbett, were held prisoners by the armed mob while members forced open his cell with a crowbar.

Jailer Corbett went before the jury prior to his son's visit to the closely-guarded investigation room, as did two witnesses from Tumbleton community, where the negro, Wes Johnson, was accused of attacking a white woman last Saturday.

As the jurors convened, they were admonished by Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead "to sift not only circumstances about the lynching but to make a "sweeping, thorough and detailed investigation of the conduct of each and every officer charged with the duty of taking steps to prevent the lynching, including the judge of this court."

"Such crimes," Judge Halstead said, are a challenge to constituted authority and society."

He told the jury to "let the return to the court speak the truth as you have found it."

Among witnesses summoned before the jurors was Capt. Potter Smith of the Alabama Highway Patrol, on whose private report Gov. Graves based his special grand jury session order.

Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael did not file threatened impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Corbett today at Montgomery, although he said Thursday he had been ordered to do so by Gov. Graves.

ABBEVILLE LYNCHING PROBE NEARING END

Birmingham Ala. Post 2-6-37

Sheriff And His Father Are Questioned By Jury

ABBEVILLE, Feb. 6.—(Special.)—The special Henry County Grand Jury investigating the lynching of Wes Johnson, 18-year-old Negro, was expected to return as many as 15 indictments today.

Sheriff R. L. Corbett, of Abbeville, and his father, Jailer J. N. Corbett, were questioned by the jury yesterday. Both have said they were held prisoners in the jail while a mob of about 50 men took Johnson late Monday.

The Negro was accused of attacking a white woman last Saturday. His bullet riddled body was found near the scene of the alleged attack early Tuesday.

Capt. Potter Smith of the State Highway Patrol, Gov. Bibb Graves' special investigator in the case, and a number of citizens of Tumbleton, where the attack is said to have occurred, were summoned by the jury.

With indictments expected today, doubt was expressed in some quarters that a petit jury would convict.

Jury Fails To Return Bill In Lynch Death

Henry County Sheriff's Conduct Not Probed; Crime Is 'Unsolved'

ABBEVILLE, ALA., Feb. 6.—(AP)—The lynching of a 19-year-old negro farm hand went down today as an "unsolved crime" when a Henry County Grand Jury failed to return indictments in a special investigation ordered by Gov. Graves.

Besides reporting its failure to indict, the jury said it did not investigate conduct of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt but stated "officers of the court performed their duty promptly and fearlessly."

That part of the Grand Jury's report dealing with the Sheriff, stated: "Inasmuch as impeachment proceedings have already been ordered against the Sheriff of our county, we deemed it inadvisable to investigate his conduct—what he did or did not do to protect the prisoner, Wes Johnson, and to prevent his being taken from the county jail and killed and we therefore have nothing to report on this matter the one way or the other."

The negro, Wes Johnson, was taken from the Henry County jail here last Monday by an armed mob, estimated at 50 men. His bullet-riddled body was found hanging from a tree Tuesday in nearby Tumbleton community where Johnson was accused of assaulting a white woman three days earlier.

Gov. Graves, declaring at Montgomery that "lynch law shall not prevail in Alabama," ordered the special Grand Jury investigation and directed Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael to file impeachment proceedings against Sheriff Corbitt on grounds of "neglect of duty."

L. F. Hall, a former State senator returned the report as foreman of the jury, which promptly was dismissed by Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead, who charged it yesterday lynch law was "a challenge to constituted authority."

Among witnesses called by the jury was Sheriff Corbitt, who previously stated he recognized several members of the mob and would "identify them before a Grand Jury or in court." He remained before the jury 20 minutes.

The Sheriff, maintaining he "did all in my power" to prevent the mob getting the negro, had no comment to make on his jury appearance.

Following finding of the body Tuesday, Sheriff Corbitt said the mob appeared unexpectedly Monday night and held him and his father Jailer J. N. Corbitt, prisoners while members forced the negro's cell door with a crow-bar.

Attorney General Starts On Impeachment Papers

Inquiry last night brought the information that work has already been started on preparation of the impeachment proceedings that by direction of Gov. Graves will be filed by Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael in the Alabama Supreme Court, against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County. It is expected that preparation of the action will be completed, and the proceedings formally filed before the end of the present week.

In his letter to the Attorney General on Feb. 4, directing that the action be brought against the Henry sheriff, the Governor cited that during the night of Monday, Feb. 1, Wesley Johnson, a prisoner, was taken from the Henry County jail by unauthorized persons, and put to death.

It appeared from information received by him and from an examination which he caused to be made of the occurrence, the Chief Executive said in his letter, that the Henry County Sheriff was guilty of neglect, as sheriff, as a result of which the prisoner was unlawfully taken from the county jail and put to death; or was guilty of a grave fault in the conduct of his office of sheriff, as a result of which the prisoner was taken fro mthe county jail and put to death; or was guilty of willful neglect of duty in this matter; or that his acts in this connection "show that he is incompetent to discharge the duties of his office, as sheriff."

Immediately after the lynching was reported to him last Tuesday, Gov. Graves directed Chief Walter K. McAdory of the State Highway Patrol, to detail officers of that department to make a complete investigation of the occurrence. Capt. Potter Smith, Sergt. J. W. McClung, special investigator, and Sergt. T. J. Carlisle were assigned to that duty. Wednesday afternoon, Capt. Smith reported to the Governor and the Attorney General. The following morning the Governor directed the Attorney General to bring the impeachment action against the sheriff.

Following the convening of the Henry County Grand Jury in special session at Abbeville, Capt. Smith and Sergts. McClung and Carlisle appeared before that body.

State, County Begin Probe Of Lynching

Bullet-Riddled Body Of Negro Found On Tree Limb Near Headland

2-3-37

HEADLAND, ALA., Feb. 2.—(AP)—The lynching of an 18-year-old negro farm hand, accused of attacking a white woman, brought anti-mob action from two official sources today within a few hours after the victim's bullet-ridden body was found swinging from a tree near here.

The lynching was the first reported in the nation in 1937.

Sheriff Louis Corbett, who said he recognized some of the 50 men who took Wes Johnson from Henry County jail at nearby Abbeville last night, talked of a special Grand Jury investigation with Circuit Court officials at Dothan.

Gov. Graves, at Montgomery, ordered Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael to make "a special and thorough investigation," and directed the State Highway Patrol to assist the Attorney General all possible.

"The Attorney General," said the Governor, "is directed to file impeachment proceedings against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted. Alabama, so long as I am Governor, never will tolerate mob rule."

No arrests had been made tonight.

Johnson was taken from Abbeville jail by the mob arriving in about 25 automobiles.

Sheriff Corbett said he and his father, Jailer J. N. Corbett, were held prisoners until the mob forced the negro's cell and drove away.

Apparently, officers said, the negro was shot before he was hanged, not far from the place of the alleged attack in Tumbleton community Saturday.

Johnson was arrested Sunday night.

The young matron, according to information given officers, was attacked by an assailant entering her home while she was alone. The negro worked on a farm in Tumbleton community.

Sheriff Corbett said the armed mob, which appeared unexpectedly, used a crow bar to force open the negro's cell. He said the mob threatened him when he refused to turn the negro over to them.

Probate Judge J. P. Mitchell said the woman allegedly attacked was reported under care of a physician today. He said the woman was the wife of a farmer of Tumbleton community, but did not give her name.

Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead, at Dothan, said late today he was awaiting a coroner's statement before deciding whether to call a special Grand Jury investigation of the lynching.

The statistical department of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., which keeps records of lynchings, said the killing of Johnson was the first report of a lynching it had received in 1937. The department's 1936 report showed nine lynchings in the United States, none of which was in Alabama.

Governor Orders Full Probe Of Lynching

Though it was still uncertain at a late hour last night whether the Henry County grand jury will be called to investigate the lynching Monday night near Headland, of Wes Johnson, negro, following his arrest on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman—prospects were, according to reports purporting to come from an official source, that such a call would be issued, and that the grand jury will be convened at Abbeville Thursday morning.

Advised of press dispatches announcing the lynching, which reached him at about noon yesterday, Gov. Graves immediately requested Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to ascertain if impeachment proceedings should be brought against Sheriff Louie Corbett, of Henry County. The chief executive at the same time stated he was placing the State Highway Patrol at the Attorney General's disposal to make an investigation. Mr. Carmichael said later, that should facts developed justify it, he will file impeachment action in the Alabama Supreme Court.

By direction of the governor that he assign members of his department to investigate the lynching and report to the Attorney General under whose supervision they will function during the assignment—Chief Walter K. McAdory, of the State Highway Patrol, detailed to that duty, Capt. Potter Smith, Sergt. J. W. McClung, special investigator, and Sergt. T. J. Carlisle—all of whom arrived at Abbeville during the late afternoon. They are expected to make their first report some time today.

On receipt of information that the lynching had occurred, the Governor called Sheriff Corbett and had a brief conversation with him by long distance telephone. The sheriff told him, it was understood, that he was over powered by a band of some 50 men, who battered down the door, entered the jail, took the negro from the cell where he had been placed following his arrest, and carried him away with them.

Monroeville, Ala., Journal
February 4, 1937

State And County Begin Probe Of Lynching

The lynching of an 18-year-old negro farm hand, accused of attacking a white woman, brought anti-mob action from two official sources Tuesday within a few hours after the victim's bullet-ridden body was found swinging from a tree near Headland.

The lynching was the first reported in the nation in 1937.

Sheriff Louis Corbett, who said he recognized some of the 50 men who took Wes Johnson from Henry County jail at nearby Abbeville Monday night, talked of a special Grand Jury investigation with Circuit Court officials at Dothan.

Gov. Graves, at Montgomery, ordered Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael to make "a special and thorough investigation," and directed the State Highway Patrol to assist the Attorney General all possible.

"The Attorney General", said the Governor, "is directed to file impeachment proceedings against any officer if he finds such proceedings warranted. Alabama, so long as I am Governor, never will tolerate mob rule."

No arrests had been made Tuesday night.

Johnson was taken from Abbeville jail by the mob arriving in about 25 automobiles.

Sheriff Corbett said he and his father, Jailer J. N. Corbett, were held prisoners until the mob forced the negro's cell and drove away.

Apparently, officers said, the negro was shot before he was hanged,

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Lanett, Ala. Times
February 24, 1937

"The filing of impeachment proceedings against an Alabama sheriff as the result of the lynching of a nineteen-year-old negro last week was an such variance with the customary procedure in such cases that it attracted nationwide attention. We congratulate Governor Graves for his quick action in summoning a special grand-jury session to investigate the crime but, in the light of past experience, we shall be surprised if anything happens to the members of the mob."—The New Republic.

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Dothan, Ala. Eagle
March 10, 1937

HENRY SHERIFF KEEPS SILENCE ON IMPEACHER

"Nothing to Say" Corbitt Reply to Query On Proceedings

HEARING MAY 3

Removal Writ Filed At Graves Behest

Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County had "nothing to say" Wednesday, declining to comment on impeachment proceedings on file against him in the Alabama supreme court at Montgomery at behest of Gov. Bibb Graves as sequel to the lynching Feb. 2 of Wes Johnson, 18-year-old Negro at Tumbleton.

The sheriff, reached at Abbeville by telephone declined to make any statement; hearing on the proceedings has been set for May 3.

The Negro was being held in the Henry County jail charged with assaulting a white woman Jan. 30.

The impeachment proceedings were filed late Tuesday by Attorney General A. A. Carmichael at the direction of Governor Graves.

A Henry County grand jury investigated the lynching but returned no indictments. The impeachment proceedings specifically charged Sheriff Corbitt with "neglect; grave fault in conduct of office, and wilful neglect."

Sheriff Corbitt said, shortly after the Negro's bullet-riddled body was found hanging from a tree in the Tumbleton community, that he "did all in my power to protect the prisoner."

Several members of the armed mob of approximately 50 men were recognized by him, the sheriff said, adding he would "name them before the grand jury or in court." He was among witnesses called before the grand jury that returned no indictments.

Sheriff Corbitt said the mob [illegible] and his deputies [illegible] and said them prisoners while the Negro's jail cell was forced with a crowbar.

The impeachment petition, covering more than 25 legal pages and couched in technical terms was in general language and repeated routine accusations to each of the three charges.

It termed the crime with which Johnson was charge as one "likely to provoke popular indignation and charged the sheriff took no unusual precautions to protect the Negro.

It further criticized failure of officers to remove the prisoner to a jail in another County, and termed the Henry County jail at Abbeville "not safe for the protection of a prisoner from mob violence."

The Negro's body was found hanging to a tree a few hundred yards from the home of the young matron whom he reputedly confessed assaulting.

NEW JURY WILL PROBE LYNCHING

Present One Is Deadlocked; Judge Is Determined To Obtain Indictments

5-14-37

By United Press.

DOTHAN, May 14.—A grand jury reportedly deadlocked on murder indictments drawn against leaders of a lynch mob, was expected to be discharged today and a new panel drawn. Birmingham, Ala.

In one of the most determined drives in the history of the South to obtain indictments against leaders of a lynch mob, Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead of Henry County said he would instruct the new jury to investigate the lynching several weeks ago of Wes Johnson, young Negro who was accused of an attack on a white girl.

The present grand jury has been deadlocked nearly a week. It reportedly stood 11 to 7 in favor of indicting leaders of the mob, but under Alabama law the vote of not less than 12 members of the jury of 18 is necessary to indict.

Judge Halstead was understood to have written Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael asking him to enter the investigation as a prosecutor.

Johnson was taken from the county jail at Abbeville by a mob of more than 50 white men. Sheriff J. L. Corbitt said he was overpowered and helpless in the face of the mob.

Gov. Bibb Graves, who has urged grand jury action, asked impeachment of the sheriff for negligence and hearings on charges filed by the attorney-general have been set for June 3.

JURY NAMING DELAYED IN ALABAMA LYNCHING

DOTHAN, Ala., May 14.—(UP) Impanelling of a new grand jury to investigate the lynching of a negro here last February today was delayed indefinitely pending a conference between Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead and Attorney General A. A. Carmichael.

Halstead said he was waiting to hear from the attorney general before taking action. He previously had announced that the present grand jury, reportedly deadlocked on indictments against the lynch mob, would be dismissed and a new one drawn.

State To Ignore Grand Jury In Henry County

Attorney General Says Sheriff's Ouster Will Be Pushed Vigorously

5-21-37

Recommendation contained in the recent report of the Henry County grand jury, that impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of that county, be dismissed, will have no effect whatever upon the petition which is set for hearing before the Alabama Supreme Court on June 3.

After a conference last night with Gov. Graves, Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael announced the Governor at whose request the impeachment proceedings was filed, had directed him to pursue and prosecute the proceedings vigorously, and that he will do so.

The action was brought following removal from the county jail at Abbeville and lynching by a mob, of Wesley Johnson, negro farm hand, held on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman.

As to the grand jury's recommendation, Gov. Graves said yesterday: "Nothing that a grand jury can say, in my opinion, can affect jurisdiction of the State Supreme Court, before which the impeachment proceedings already have been filed. It appears up to the courts now, in my opinion."

Following his conference with the Governor, the attorney general issued the following statement:

His Statement

"I have conferred with Gov. Graves about the recent report of the Grand Jury in Henry County. Gov. Graves knew about the Grand Jury report at the time of our conversation. The Gov. directs me to pursue and prosecute the impeachment proceedings in the Supreme Court vigorously. To say that I will do this is putting it mildly.

"Just here, let me say this: Immediately after the lynching, Gov. Graves conducted a most careful investigation of the lynching. While the Governor was conducting an investigation I was also conducting an investigation. After a most exhaustive and painstaking investigation, we were both convinced that the sheriff ought to be impeached. If Gov Graves had not been thoroughly convinced that the sheriff ought to be impeached, the Governor would never have directed me to institute impeachment proceedings. The Governor does not carelessly, and without much investigating, direct the impeachment of an officer. My personal investigation of the circumstances and conditions under which the lynching took place convinced me beyond doubt that impeachment proceedings should be instituted. The recent report of the Grand Jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The impeachment proceedings will proceed and will be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the attorney general is capable of putting forth.

"The framers of our Constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.

Feels Keenly

"I want to take this occasion to say that the Governor of Alabama and the attorney general of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter; that we are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama State officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character, are doing their duty and will continue to do it.

"To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a petit jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this State I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the attorney general of this State, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great State at my command."

LYNCH GRAND JURY BALKS PROSECUTION

Second Body Was Named to Alabama Case.

ABBEYVILLE, Ala., May 19.—(UP)—One of the most determined drives in southern history to obtain murder indictments against lynch mob leaders ended in a report of "no bills" by a grand jury tonight.

Investigating the lynching of Wes Johnson, negro accused of attacking a white woman, the grand jury reported to Circuit Judge Halstead it found no grounds for handing up indictments.

The jury recommended further that Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, whose impeachment was sought by Governor Bibb Graves, be exonerated of any blame in the lynching. A previous jury, reportedly deadlocked 11 to 7 in favor of indictments, was discharged when it was unable to make a report. Convening of the second grand jury, impaneled today after failure of the first to act, attaches said, virtually is without precedent in such investigations in the south.

Johnson was taken from custody of Corbitt by a mob of about 50 white men early this spring and hanged.

Governor Graves reportedly was instrumental in impanelling of the second jury when the first one failed to report indictments.

Grand Jury Clears Sheriff in Lynching

ABBEVILLE, Ala., May 20. (AP)—Recommendations for dismissal of impeachment proceedings against Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, charged with negligence in the lynching of Wes Johnson, Negro, had been made today by a Henry county grand jury.

The proceedings were brought against the official before the state supreme court by Attorney General A. A. Carmichael upon instructions from Gov. Bibb Graves. Sheriff Corbitt was charged with "cowardice and negligence" when a mob of approximately 100 armed men lynched the Negro accused of attacking a white woman.

The grand jury investigating the three-month old lynching yesterday in making its report to Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead, reported it had considered all available evidence in the case and returned a "no bill."

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 20, 1937

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Mobile, Ala., Register
May 19, 1937

New Grand Jury Probes Lynching

Inquisitorial Body To Be Organized By Court At Abbeville Today

By The United Press

ABBEYVILLE, Ala., May 18.—A new grand jury to investigate the lynching of Wes Johnson, negro accused of attacking a white woman, will be organized tomorrow at 9 a.m., Circuit Judge D. C. Halstead announced tonight.

The judge's order for impaneling of the new jury of 18 members automatically discharged a previous jury which reportedly had voted 11 to 7 to return murder indictments against unnamed leaders of the lynch band.

Under Alabama law, 12 votes are necessary before an 18-man grand jury can hand up a murder indictment.

Johnson was taken from jail by a masked mob which intimidated

Sheriff J. L. Corbitt. Corbitt's impeachment since has been asked by Atty.-Gen. A. A. Carmichael and the sheriff will appear before the Alabama Supreme Court on June 3, for a hearing.

The order for convening of the new jury was believed almost without precedent in Southern investigations of lynchings. Gov. Bibb Graves reportedly is exerting pressure for grand jury indictment of men responsible for the violence.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 22, 1937

A Fine Statement

There need be no doubt in anyone's mind that Gov. Graves and Atty. Gen. Carmichael are going to do everything in their power to get at the facts in the Henry County lynching case. Despite the recommendation of two Henry County Grand Juries that the case be dropped, the governor has directed the attorney general to push impeachment charges against the sheriff and leave no stone unturned in an attempt to convict those guilty.

After conferring with the governor, Mr. Carmichael issued the following statement, which deserves to be read:

I have conferred with Gov. Graves about the recent report of the Grand Jury in Henry County. Gov. Graves knew about the Grand Jury report at the time of our conversation. The governor directs me to pursue and prosecute the impeachment proceedings in the Supreme Court vigorously. To say that I will do this is putting it mildly.

Just here, let me say this: Immediately after the lynching, Gov Graves conducted a most careful investigation of the lynching. The recent report of the Grand Jury will not have the slightest effect on the impeachment proceedings now pending in the Supreme Court of Alabama. The impeachment proceedings will proceed and will be prosecuted with as much vigor as the office of the attorney general is capable of putting forth.

The framers of our constitution did not accidentally provide that a sheriff should be impeached by the Supreme Court.

I want to take this occasion to say that the governor of Alabama and the attorney general of Alabama feel very keenly about this matter; that we are most anxious that the outside world know that the Alabama state officials who are responsible in law for prosecuting cases of this character are doing their duty and will continue to do it.

To say that lynching has anything to do with protecting womanhood in Alabama is pure poppycock. The answer to this is that a Petit Jury would require about 30 seconds to reach an electrocution verdict for the perpetrator of such a crime as this. Those unlawful hoodlums who imagine themselves heroes when taking part in lynchings have a distorted idea of patriotism. Only lawless hoodlums and the enemies of government take part in mob law. As the chief law enforcement officer of this state I condemn it and make known that as long as I am the attorney general of this state, those persons who think they are more important and powerful than the law and who take the law in their own hands, will be prosecuted promptly and most vigorously, and in this I want to say that I will have the entire resources of this great state at my command.

The Age-Herald congratulates the attorney general on this forceful statement. When our public officials take determined stands like the governor and attorney general have taken in this case we may rest assured that the law will be upheld. The attorney general's statement should be read by everyone in this and other states. It is reassurance that Alabama will not tolerate lynching.

Lynching Case Re-Opened By Grand Jury Investigation

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
May 20, 1937

Judge Hal-Stead Gives StrongCharge

As entirely new venire of grand jury was summoned by Judge Halstead which convened at Abbeville on Wednesday morning reopening case the of Wess Johnson who was spirited away from the Henry County jail last February and killed. Judge Halstead gave a strong charge to the grand jury, emphasizing duty, integrity and impartial opinions in the matter of making the investigation and rendering their decision. Witnesses, both new and old, were called before the grand jury for questioning. Circuit Solicitor J. Hubert Farmer was to be in charge of the investigation, unassisted from the Attorney General's office in Montgomery.

Florida.

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COMMITTEE TO PUSH
TAMPA KU KLUX PROBE

NEW YORK, Nov.--(CNA)- Incensed at the acquittal of eight former Tampa policemen involved in the kidnaping and murder of Joseph Shoemaker, white Tampa organizer of the Progressive Democrats, the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa announced this week its intention to conduct a national campaign for a federal investigation of Ku Klux Klan activities in this state.

Crusader News Agency

Declaring that "the murder of Joseph Shoemaker will not be solved, and its perpetrators will not be brought to justice unless public opinion inside and outside of Florida can force a federal investigation," the committee requested all progressive individuals, trade unions and organizations to send telegrams to Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C., stressing the importance of an immediate investigation of the status of civil liberties in Klan-infested Florida. 11-1-37 New York Daily

The Committee pointed out that such an investigation will greatly benefit the Negro people, who more than any other group in the country have suffered from Klan terrorism. It urged Negro organizations to participate actively in the campaign.

INVESTIGATION ASKED IN TAMPA FLOGGINGS

LAKELAND, Fla., Nov. 13.—(UP)—An investigation by the senate civil liberties committee into the Tampa flogging cases was asked tonight by E. L. Callaway, former Republican candidate for governor of Florida.

Callaway's request preceded resumption of legal activity in the Tampa cases scheduled for Monday. Judge Robert T. Dewell of Bartow county criminal court is expected to hear the cases for assignment to trial in the January court term.

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Florida Governor Asked to Probe Newest Lynching

NEW YORK—Governor Fred P. Cone has been asked by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union to institute a special investigation into the shooting and killing of Stafford Dames, Jr., on July 27th by three Miami policemen.

The N. A. A. C. P. also has asked the Mayor of Miami to direct a reopening of the case and full prosecution of the officers involved.

Testimony brought out at the coroner's inquest indicated plainly that young Dames was killed in cold blood on the thin excuse that he was attempting to enter a Catholic church where he had been altar boy for six years.

Witnesses at the inquest, all Negroes, testified that young Dames had spent the evening visiting friends, had stopped at a confectionery store testified that "within a few minutes" after the purchase of the peanuts, he heard shots. Another witness testified that he was sitting on his porch when young Dames walked from the confectionery store and that a police car drew up to the curb and the police started shooting at young Dames without saying anything. The witness declared the Dames boy started running toward h's mother's house, but the hail of bullets from the police guns cut him down practically at his mother's front porch. A colored woman testified that she saw Patrolman B. Simpson, one of the officers involved in the killing, plant a gun on Dames after the boy fell to the sidewalk. All three policemen, including a sergeant, fired at young Dames.

A neighbor of the Dames' household told the coroner's inquest that one of the policemen answered a question from Mrs. Dames by saying: "I don't know if th's is your son, but if he is, come out and see the son of a ..... die."

The physicians testified at the inquest that young Dames had been shot in the back. The assertion that he was trying to rob the church by climbing in a window is regarded as pure invention by the policemen since Dames had access to the church and did not have to climb in a window. The only rebuttal to this testimony by denial of the three officers, and yet the coroner's jury brought in a verdict exonerating them, declaring that they had killed young Dames "in the performanze of duty."

EIGHT HELD IN DEATH OF FLORIDA MAN

Joseph Shoemaker and Two Others Kidnaped, Tarred Feathered in 1935

By SANDERS S. MASON

TAMPA, Fla., 1937 Eight former policemen will face second degree murder charges when the second trial in the famous Shoemaker flogging case opens in Bartow, Fla., on October 5, States Attorney Farrior said this week.

Five of the men are former officers of the law in Tampa. Three are of Orlando, Fla.

Eleven men originally were indicted in the case which attracted nation-wide attention several years ago, but no criminal court action was filed against Manuel Menedez, former police stenographer accused as an accessory, and all charges against R. G. Tittsworth, former police chief, and Robert Chappell were dropped by prosecuting attorneys.

Hopes to Convict All

The case has been a continuous sore spot on the criminal annals of Tampa, and it is rumored Farrior is anxious to dispose of the whole thing, however the verdicts convictions in the cases.

Tittsworth and Chapell went on trial in the Poulnot kidnaping case with which the five former policemen are still charged, but were acquitted on directed verdicts by Judge Dewell.

The five tried with them who face charges in the second trial, were convicted and sentenced to four years each but the Supreme court reversed the convictions.

They are C. A. Brown, John P. Bridges, F. W. Switzer, C. W. Carlisle, and Sam E. Crosby. The three Orlando men facing trial are Edward Spivey, Arlie Gullian and James Dean.

Mr. Farrior made his announcement regarding those to be tried at the second trail in accordance with instructions from Judge Dewell, allowed the state's attorney until a month before the trial to notify denfense attorneys of the defendants.

The second trial in which Mr. Farrior announced the defendants will face charges of second degree murder in the death of Joseph Shoemaker, will be held at Bartow under a charge of venue granted by Judge Dewell for all proceedings on the motion of defense attorneys.

The case grew out of the kidnapping of three men held as prisoners in the city jail in 1935 by a group of city policemen.

The men were nabbed from the steps of the city hall as they were reputedly turned free, after a raid on their home disclosed some socialist literature.

Painfully Tortured

The three men were Eugene Poulnot, F. R. Rogers, and Joseph Shoemaker. They were taken to the woods, tarred, feathered and poked with red hot iron rods.

Shoemaker died a few days later as the results of this beating. It was believed a few days after his death that he had named Chief Tittsworth and several officers as his abductors, but this was not verified, the public of Florida demanded a conviction of these so called defenders of the law, who had grabbed these helpless men from the steps of the jail and whisked them to the outskirts of the city to attempt violence.

Behind the powerful public sentiment aroused throughout Tampa a Hillsboro county grand jury indicted the chief of police and all his cohorts. They were immediately placed under bond, the case has attracted more international publicity than this little quiet town has ever seen. Attorney Pat Whittaker, millitant youthful Tampa attorney, represents the defendants.

GOVERNOR ORDERS LYNCHING INQUIRY

Five Hooded Men Take Negro From Sheriff in Florida and Body Is Found Later

MILTON, Fla., Oct. 4. (AP)—Hooded men took a Negro prisoner from Sheriff Joe Allen of Santa Rosa county during the night and shot the Negro to death on a highway near Fort Walton in neighboring Okaloosa county.

The Negro, 30-year-old J. C. Evans, was to have been tried here today on a charge of criminally attacking a 12-year-old white boy and robbing a filling station.

It was Florida's third lynching of the year and the eighth in the South during 1937.

A coroner's jury at Crestview, Fla., said the Negro met "death at the hands of a party or parties unknown."

From his office in Tallahassee, Governor Fred P. Cone ordered a complete investigation with full punishment for the guilty parties. State Attorney E. Dixie Beggs, Jr. of Pensacola said, "We are doing all we can to solve this thing."

Sheriff Allen told the jury he and Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Martin drove to Panama City, Fla., last night to get the Negro who had been held in the Bay county jail there "six or eight weeks" to safeguard him against "high feeling."

Near midnight, Allen testified, a car forced his automobile to stop and five men wearing black hoods covered him and Deputy Martin with guns. "We want that nigger," the Sheriff said the men told him.

Leaving the deputy in the sheriff's car, the hooded men told Allen and the Negro into their automobile and drove down the road about a mile. Then they put Allen out of the car and handed him the keys to his own automobile. The sheriff walked back to his car.

About three miles from the spot where the men took the Negro, the sheriff said, he found the prisoner's body sprawled on the edge of the road. The Negro had been riddled with buckshot and hit several times with pistol bullets.

Sheriff Allen said neither he nor Deputy Martin recognized any of the five hooded men. He insisted he believed no one in Milton knew of his plan to transfer the prisoners here last night.

The Tuskegee, Ala., Institute said in addition to Florida's three lynchings this year there have been two in Mississippi and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

The lynching victim was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment on a robbery charge in Panama City Saturday. He was convicted of holding up Joe Ansley of Panama City last July 10.

It was during his transfer to Santa Rosa county for trial on the other charge that the band took him from the sheriff.

Murder Is No Crime In Florida

An outrage has just been committeed in Florida which is of national significance.

The six defendants who were convicted of murdering the labor organizer and militant Socialist, Frank Shoemaker, have just been acquitted in their second trial.

The second trial, granted by the State Supreme Court, was a farce, and a triumph for the Ku Klux Klan, whose members killed Shoemaker in cold blood in the notorious flogging and kidnaping case which stirred the country.

The judge kept out of the second trial three-quarters of the evidence which convicted the well-known killers in the first trial, permitted the Ku Kluxer's lawyers to raise an anti-labor hysteria in the courtroom, and finally directed the verdict of acquittal.

Every one in Bartow, Florida, knows who flogged Shoemaker to death in a secret night raid. But the Ku Klux Klan has managed to free its killers.

The Klan celebrates its victory by boldly warning that it will extend its violence and lawlessness against the CIO trade unions should they begin any labor organization in Florida. A New York Times dispatch quotes prominent Ku Kluxers as saying, "we will meet CIO frightfulness with Ku Klux Klan frightfulness." These words are the bloody boastings of political gangsters who are determined to keep Florida's workers, of plantation, turpentine, camp and factory, in prison-like subjection.

American labor and the American people face a serious challenge in the Ku Klux

triumph in the Shoemaker verdict. organizer, no American worker who believes in unionism, is safe from attack or worse. If Shoemaker was murdered with impunity, no progressive American, no labor

Six Are Again Acquitted Of Lash Slaying

Second Tampa Case Is Ended With Directed Verdict

BARTOW, FLA., Oct. 14.—(AP)—The second of the Tampa flogging trials ended in a directed verdict of acquittal today, freeing six former policemen of charges they killed Joseph E. Shoemaker.

Defense Atty. Pat Whitaker, expressed confidence two kidnaping cases still outstanding against the six would prove similarly ineffective and said he hoped for early trials.

Shoemaker, a labor organiser, and two of his associates, Eugene F. Poulnot and Samuel J. Rogers, were abducted from a door of the Tampa police station the night of Nov. 30, 1935, taken to a woods and whipped, tarred and feathered.

Nine days later, Shoemaker died. Physicians testified pneumonia and exposure were the causes. Prosecutors filed second degree murder charges.

Judge Robert Dewell directed the verdict finding the State had failed to prove its charges that the defendants were principals in the flogging.

Testimony mentioned five of them in the abduction of Rogers and Poulnot, but the judge found no evidence linking them with the kidnaping of Shoemaker. The court held it was incumbent upon the State to show the defendants' presence, either "actual or constructive," at the scene of the crime and that "this was not done."

Five of the men were convicted last year on a charge of kidnaping Poulnot, but the State Supreme Court reversed the verdict on a technicality. They were C. A. Brown, Jr., Sam Crosby, C. W. Carlisle, F. W. Switzer and John P. Bridges. The sixth man at the present trial was Arlie Gilliam, of Orlando, Fla.

Shoemaker, Poulnot and Rogers were associated in "The Modern Democrats," a third party movement at Tampa.

Arrested by police at a meeting, they were questioned concerning communistic matters, then released. The abduction and whipping followed. Accused officers were dismissed.

Jack Shoemaker, of Knoxville, Tenn., brother of the victim, said his words when he found him in the woods were:

"I didn't know any men could be so mean."

IDENTIFY ACCUSED IN FLOGGING TRIAL

Police Captain, Patrol Driver, Ex-Officer and Reporter Pick Out 3 of 6 at Bartow, Fla.

ANOTHER TERMED KLEAGLE

Man Who Once Prosecuted Him in Similar Case Is Now Defending Him

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BARTOW, Fla., Oct. 11.—State Prfosecutor J. Rex Farrior produced a police captain, a patrol wagon driver, a former policeman and a newspaper reported today to identify three of the six defendants now on trial here for second degree murder as having participated more or less vigorously in the events that aided a band of men to flog Joseph Shoemaker to death in a lonely wood fourteen miles outside of Tampa.

Testimony at a previous trial of five of the present defendants was to the effect that Shoemaker, former Vermont manufacturer, who had organized the Modern Democrats to oppose the two dominant political factions of Tampa, was murdered after he refused to obey the Ku Klux Klan's orders to get out of town.

Two other leaders of the Modern Democrats flogged at the same time were Sam J. Rogers, country physician, and Eugene F. Poulnot, Florida chairman of the Workers Alliance.

Klan Link s Uncovered

All six of the defendants are former members of the Tampa Police Department. It was learned today that one of them, Arlie Gilliam, of Orlando, who traveled 100 miles to become a special deputy in the turbulent Tampa elections that preceded and precipitated the flogging, is Kleagle of the Orlando Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan.

A beady-eyed burly, ruddy man, Gilliam was once investigated in connection with a flogging incident in Volusia County near Deland, but never brought to trial.

A second time he was indicted in a flogging and acquitted. On that occasion he was prosecuted by the then State attorney, Chauncey Boyar, the 1912 Olympic weight-lifting champion. Mr. Boyar is at present defense counsel for Kleagle Gilliam and employs Gilliam on his citrus farm.

Reversals of Testimony

Today's testimony centered on what occurred at the police station. H. L. Russell, then a uniformed police officer, at present steward on a boat, testified that he saw John Bridges and Sam E. Crosby, two of the defendants, with Poulnot in the car in which the flogging victim says he was delivered to the men who flogged him, Bridges holding his hand clapped over Poulnot's mouth.

He admitted previously stating that he did not "remember any of them," but said that "the general attitude around the station house at the time was that anybody who was employed by the city of Tampa who knew anything about the case was out."

M. L. Williams, patrol-wagon driver, also admitted to having sworn falsely numerous times during both investigations, "because I had the fear I'd lose my job if I told that I knew."

What he knew, he swore today, was that he saw one of the defendants, C. W. Carlisle, special deputy and nominally an assistant tax collector, leading Poulnot out of the police station.

"Thirty or forty seconds after they got out the door, I heard hollering and screaming," he said. "I rushed out and saw Bridges holding Poulnot in the car. Poulnot was rearing and tearing."

Russell said today that he decided to tell the truth to the committees after "an obstacle" had been removed. Objections by the defense prevented him from identifying the "obstacle," but, later, Williams, under questioning by Solicitor Manuel Glover of Polk County, who is assisting Mr. Farrior, said:

"I was under fear of losing my job until R. G. Tittsworth was removed as Chief of Police. When I read in the papers that he had been dropped I hurried down and told the truth."

Tittsworth was indicted as an accessory after the fact in the flogging case, but the indictment was dismissed for "lack of evidence."

NEW EVIDENCE IN TAMPA LASHINGS

Witnesses Testify to Seeing Poulnot Forced Into Car at Police Station

PROSECUTION RESTRICTED

Court Excludes All Testimony Presented at Previous Trial Last Year

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BARTOW, Fla., Oct. 9.—A jury of six and one alternate, composed of elderly farmers, a grocer, a well-driller and an unemployed man, was impaneled today by the capsule story to which the state has been limited in its attempts to convict six former Tampa policemen of flogging Joseph Shoemaker to death after he had refused to get out of the city when told to do so by the Ku Klux Klan.

The State, by ruling of Presiding Judge R. T. Dewell, has been forced to start its case near the end of the events that occurred Nov. 30, 1935. Deciding a plea of double jeopardy, the judge has excluded all the evidence presented during the trial last year of five of the present defendants on charges of conspiring to kidnap Eugene F. Poulnot, chairman of the Florida Workers Alliance and one of the three men who were arrested, abducted, tarred and whipped the night Shoemaker was flogged to death.

Poulnot, Shoemaker and Dr. Samuel J. Rogers, a country physician who makes his living now as a tree surgeon, were leaders of The Modern Democrats, an organization composed of opponents of the two dominant political factions of Tampa.

The State prosecutor, J. Rex Farrior is a member of one of the dominant political factions while the chief defense counsel, Pat Whitaker, is a leader in the other.

Detective Chief Testifies

The jury heard D. D. Bush, chief of detectives of Tampa, and John Riegel today. Then Judge Dewell, to the bewilderment of all except the defense, recessed court until Monday because a friend of Kate Carver, the court stenographer, had been injured in an automobile accident and was calling for her.

"No gentleman can object to this act of mercy," said the judge.

Bush was the first to bring before the jury the name of C. A. Brown Jr., one of the six defendants. C. W. Carlisle, Arlie Gilliam, F. W. Switzer and John Bridges have been previously identified from the stand. The sixth defendant, Sam E. Crosby, has not figured in the testimony.

Yesterday Poulnot swore that, screaming and struggling, he had been forced out of the City Hall police station in Tampa by Carlisle and into a car, where Bridges was waiting to clap his hand over his mouth and force him into silence.

Saw Poulnot Seized, He Says

Bush testified today that while sitting in his office he heard "a hollering and ran downstairs" in time to see "Brown and Carlisle push shut the door of a car angle-parked in front of the main entrance to the station house."

Riegel declared that while in a police station on the night of Nov. 30, he heard a noise, ran outside and "seen C. W. Carlisle putting Eugene Poulnot in a car. I seen Johnny Bridges sitting in the back seat of the car holding his hand over Poulnot's mouth and Poulnot was trying to make an utterance."

After the car had driven away, Riegel continued, he saw a pair of eyeglasses on the sidewalk, picked them up and delivered them to the desk sergeant, H. Carl Tompkins, who subsequently was reported to have died as a result of a fall from a hospital window. Poulnot has testified to the loss of his glasses during the scuffle at the station, but they have disappeared.

Riegel testified that when he saw Bridges with his hand clapped over Poulnot's mouth, the policeman was wearing Badge 39 and that when he saw Bridges a few weeks later he was wearing Badge 140.

Defense counsel was attempting to develop on cross-examination how much money Riegel had received in witness and subpoena fees from the State when court recessed.

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Tampa Flogging Case Suffers New Setback

IT IS disappointing to learn that the supreme court of Florida has reversed the verdict of guilty against five of the eleven policemen indicted in the notorious Tampa flogging case. The sentence of four years imprisonment was set aside and a new trial ordered. The case has already dragged out for an intolerably long time, particularly as each new delay makes it less likely that any of the participants in this brutal crime will be brought to justice. Four of the indicted men have never even been tried and not one of them has spent a single day in jail. And nearly twenty months have passed since the beating of Poulnot and Rogers and what amounted to the murder of Shoemaker occurred! The supreme court deliberated for six months on the appeal of the condemned men and in the end took action apparently only because of a statewide demand that something be done. Its decision in effect puts things back where they were and the whole fight must be waged again. This method of defeating justice by delaying it has usually proved effective and only a strong and persistent public opinion can prevent its succeeding in this case. Fortunately, there are signs that such a public opinion exists and the fact that indictments against the policemen have been secured puts a strong weapon into its hands, which it will not fail to use. Meanwhile, it will be as well for individuals and groups outside Florida to recognize their responsibility. Florida is perhaps as sensitive to public opinion elsewhere as any other state and surely the nation has a stake in this case. It will be a blow to more than Florida justice if the men who were responsible for the death of Shoemaker manage to get off.

BULLETS EXAMINED IN PROBE OF LYNCHING

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 21.—(U.P.)—The bodies of two lynched negroes—Richard Hawkins and Ernst Ponder—were exhumed here today and bullets were removed from them as a step in the search for their slayers.

Ballistics experts were asked to check the slugs against others fired from guns of Tallahassee police and county officers.

PROBE FLORIDA LYNCHING

"Inside Job" Theory Expressed as Guns of Officers Are Checked

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 21.—(UP)—Authorities tonight probed the possibility of an "inside job" in the lynching of two negro prisoners Sunday, checking the pistols of law enforcement officials with slugs taken from the bullet-riddled bodies.

The latest turn in the investigation was the result of testimony by County Jailer Robert Maige at a coroner's inquest that the four men who snatched Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder from authorities apparently "knew their way around" the prison County Jail.

State's Attorney Orion C. Parker ordered all officers to register the calibers and serial numbers of their revolvers.

Hawkins and Ponder, held on a charge of stabbing Policeman V. F. Kelly, were taken from the jail by four men wearing paper sack masks.

PROBE BEGINS IN TWO LYNCHINGS

Florida Governor Orders Inquiry; Bodies Will Be Exhumed

By United Press.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 21.—Gov. Fred Cone ordered a "thorough investigation" today into the slaying of two Negroes by a mob. He called it "plain murder."

The bodies of the victims, hastily buried only a few hours after they had been found, were ordered exhumed. Surgeons will remove the bullets for possible use in tests to identify the pistols that fired them.

The Negroes were lynched because one was alleged to have stabbed Policeman J. Vernon Kelly when he attempted to arrest them last Sunday. They were taken from the County Jail by four masked leaders of a small mob, driven several miles from town and killed.

An inquest into their deaths was held almost as quickly as the bodies were buried. Police Chief G. Powledge and Sheriff Frank Stoutamire testified that the lynching had "surprised" them. Policeman Harry Fairbanks, who surrendered the prisoners, said he had offered no resistance, but did ask the mob leaders if they knew what they were doing.

"It looks to me like there has been a lot of carelessness around here," Governor Cone said.

Fairbanks told the coroner's inquest that he could not identify the abductors. He said he was so confused and excited he could not remember details of the mob leaders' appearance, except that they had worn overcoats or raincoats and had used paper sacks as masks. He did not obtain the license number of their automobile.

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Florida Lynching Brings Southern Total To Six

By United Press.

TUSKEGEE, July 21.—Lynching of two Negroes in Tallahassee, Fla., yesterday brought the total of such slayings in the Deep South to six since Jan. 1, officials of Tuskegee Institute said today.

Only one of the six was charged with criminal assault. He was Wes Johnson, taken out of an Abbeville, Ala., jail by a mob of masked men and hanged to a tree near where he was alleged to have attacked a young white planter's wife. Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County, from whose jail he was taken, was later tried on impeachment charges by the State Supreme Court for neglect of duty but was acquitted.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
July 21, 1937

OFFICERS SEND LYNCH BULLETS TO BE CHECKED

Police Guns Also Fired For Ballistics Test By an Expert

Test bullets fired from guns of every city policeman and county officer were sent to ballistic experts for comparison with pistol balls taken from bodies of two negroes lynched near here yesterday morning, Sheriff Frank Stoutamire said today.

State Attorney Orion C Parker, jr, checked the calibre and serial number of officers' pistols yesterday at a coroner's inquest as he dug into the slaying of Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, who had been jailed on a charge of stabbing Patrolman V F Kelly during a robbery attempt Sunday.

Had Good Night

Meanwhile, the hospital reported that Kelly "had a good night, and is resting more comfortably today."

Sheriff Stoutamire said he had questioned every prisoner at the county jail and that only one of them reported hearing anything during the night of the lynching until they were awakened by Policeman Harry Fairbanks calling for the jailer after he had worked himself free from a gag tied around his mouth by the lynching band.

That prisoner said he had heard a little commotion, but didn't think anything of it, the sheriff reported.

Bullets in Evidence

Four bullets picked up by the sheriff and other officers near the bodies of the negroes about three miles from Tallahassee a few yards off the Jacksonville highway were shown as evidence at the inquest yesterday.

Six other bullets—three from each negro's body—were obtained yesterday afternoon when the bodies were exhumed and an additional autopsy was performed by Dr George Gwynn.

County Judge W May Walker recessed the coroner's jury of six men yesterday until further evidence could be supplied by the state attorney.

Would Identify Four

Parker, at the inquest, was seeking to identify four men who forced Fairbanks, night police sergeant, to supply them with keys opening jail doors. Fairbanks said the men stuck a gun into his back and told him they wanted "no —— foolishness."

Keys which opened jail doors to deliver the two negroes, were obtained from police headquarters.

Police Chief Gid Powledge told the coroner's jury that only policemen and sheriff's officers knew the police headquarters had a set of keys. The keys were used, he said, so that city prisoners could be placed in the combination county-city jail at night without waking Jailer Robert Maige.

Parker questioned city and county officers, called before the coroner's jury, about the caliber and numbers of their guns, and some who did not have their guns at the time were todi to bring in the information.

Sheriff Stoutamire testified he picked up four bullets at the spot where the riddled bodies of the negroes were found. Two, he said, were .38 caliber, and two were .32 caliber. The sheriff said he carried a .32 caliber revolver, and Chief Powledge said they policemen had .38 caliber pistols.

The coroner's jury met after Governor Fred P Cone said:

"This was not a lynching. It was murder."

Governor Cone said he would have special investigations made, and added: "I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

Parker said he checked on police pistols "so that if policemen are implicated we can establish it and if they are not implicated the evidence will clearly exonerate. We don't have many clues to work on, but we are doing the best we can and a report will be furnished to Governor Cone. We will have another session of the coroner's jury if and when we get some additional evidence.

"At the present time I have no idea who committed this deed."

Fairbanks said four men entered police headquarters where he was alone, pointed a gun at him and said: "We want the jail keys and we don't want any —— foolishness."

When they told him that, he said, "I got up and gave them to them." He offered no resistance. Nor did he call for help when the men made him use the keys to open the jail door and get other keys which would open a series of doors between the jail office and the cell blocks where the two negroes were held.

So quietly did the men operate that Robert Maige, county jailer, and Harry Morrison, fingerprint officer, asleep in the building, were not awakened until Fairbanks began calling for help after the negroes were removed. Fairbanks said he had not called out earlier because of the gun pointed at him and because the men bound and gagged him before leaving.

The negroes, he said, offered no outcry as they were taken from their cells.

Fairbanks said he saw the negroes in their cells Monday and "knew about where they were" when the men forced him to open the doors. He went to the jail he said to see the men. He is the city fingerprint officer, but he did not make fingerprints of them.

"Did you have any trouble finding them?" asked Parker of Fairbanks.

"No, sir," came the answer.

Maige testified a person would require "quite a bit" of knowledge about the key and lock system to get into and out of the jail. The mobsters, he said, used Fairbanks' knowledge of the key system to get the prisoners. He also said several other city policemen were familiar with the locks and the keys.

Sheriff Stoutamire and Maige said eight doors, operated by six keys, had to be opened to get into the negroes' cells.

Fairbanks said he could not identify any of the men who accosted him, nor did he know the license number on the car in which they took him about seven blocks from police headquarters to the jail.

Sheriff Stoutamire and Chief Powledge said they had no idea of the identity of the killers.

Bodies of the negroes were buried by sheriff's deputies here yesterday without ceremony.

Florida Sheriff Ends Mob Probe

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Aug. 2—(AP)—Sheriff Frank Stoutamire said today the failure of Federal ballistic experts to connect police guns with the bullets that killed two negro mob victims virtually ended his investigation of the slayings.

The sheriff received a telegram from the Federal bureau of investigation in Washington stating sample bullets from the guns of every Tallahassee policeman did not show the same markings as bullets taken from bodies of the two negroes.

State Attorney Orion C. Parker, Jr. was not available for comment on the investigation he has been directing.

Police Sergeant Harry Faircloth said he was forced by four masked men early on the morning on July 20 to provide keys to the county jail where the negroes were held on a charge of stabbing Patrolman V. F. Kelly.

The negroes were taken to a spot alongside the Jacksonville-Tallahassee highway and shot to death.

County Judge W. May Walker said he would call the coroner's jury into session again if Parker requested it, to consider the ballistic report.

Tampa, Fla., Times
August 7, 1937

LYNCHERS UNPUNISHED.
(From the Sarasota Herald)

Because a coroner's jury adjourned without fixing blame for the Tallahassee lynching two weeks ago, the state investigation probably will fold up. Orion C. Parker, state attorney assigned by Governor Cone to investigate the crime, gave an idea of what may be expected when he remarked "that just about ends this thing."

Without all the records in view, and compelled to base an opinion on published accounts of the investigation, it must appear to all lay observers that the state has at best made but a half hearted effort to discover the perpetrators of this crime. The tendency seems to have been to keep it quiet, to hush it up, to let as little as possible about it get abroad.

Despite Mr. Parker's assertion, the adjournment of the coroner's jury without deciding who killed the two Negroes, does not "just about end the whole thing." It leaves a blot upon the state and a stigma upon the state's police agencies that no amount of covering up can ever hope to remove.

Florida Drops Double Lynch Probe

Boy Disappears; Nurse Shot; Special Policemen Thought to Shot Teacher

TALLAHASSEE (CNA)—State Attorney Orron C. Parker, Jr., said the probe into the lynching of two youths taken from jail here three weeks ago "would continue," but added that adjournment of a coroner's jury without a verdict "just about ends this thing."

Bullets from police pistols and slugs taken from the bodies of the mob victims were checked by Federal experts, but there was no similarity, the State Attorney said. Contrary to the State Attorney's claims, experts of the Federal Bureau of Identification reports that the bullets which killed the two youths corresponded with the bullets fired from pistols of the Tallahassee police.

"It's all so indefinite," Parker said of the coroner's jury's adjournment, "that just about ends this thing.

The two murdered youths were Ernest Ponder and Richard Hawkins, both 18 years old. They were taken from the jail and their bodies riddled with bullets in the morning of July 20.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—The recent double-lynching of two youths here climaxed a virtual state-wide campaign of race hatred and terror which has brought the number of Negroes murdered to eight, it was learned this week.

One of those killed was Fred Fitzsimmons, Workers Alliance leader and active church member, who was shot down in Jacksonville for "sitting on a bench in front of a chicken house." His slayer was released on a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

The lynch deaths of the two boys—taken from a jail within two blocks of the state capitol building—is the latest of a series of legal and extra-legal murders that began several weeks ago.

First of the acts in the reign of terror was the death sentence carried out on a Nassau County man accused of "rape" and given a typical hurried-up trial. Hardly a month elapsed between the accusation and the application of the lethal current in the state prison.

Axe-Murders Unfounded

Ocala, in the central part of the state, had already had two unexplained axe-murders of Negroes before the arrest about three weeks ago of a young boy accused of "assaulting white women." The boy was jailed and held while feverish efforts were made to accumulate eidence against him. When none could be found, he was finally released.

That is the last that the friends and family of the boy saw of him. Upon leaving the jail he was picked up by several white men in an automobile. Nothing has been heard of him since.

Robert Hines, 16, paid with his life for an alleged "attempted assault" on a white woman. The woman claimed she was picking blackberries, in broad daylight, near the Appalachiola airport when young Hines attempted to attack her. Hines was executed last Friday, still protesting his innocence.

Jacksonville contributed the two outstanding incidents to the reign of terror. One was the persistently repeated report of a young nurse-maid, accused of holding a troublesome baby over a gas-jet to quiet her, who was handed to the parents of the baby by police officials. Evidence points to the fact that she was taken into a lonely stretch of woods, shot several times, and while dying thrown into a river to drown.

Fred ONeil, a sixteen-year-old Sunday school teacher, met death at the hands of one of the hundreds of "special policemen" when he attempted to cross a corner of the city-owned white golf course. While his playmates ran at the order of the "special officer," O'Neil attempted to wait for his brother.

C. L. Robinson, the "special" officer, drew a high-calibred revolver on the boy and ordered him into a waiting automboile. Still unresisting, the youth entered the car and was driven to the home of the officer.

Wife Pleaded

Stories differ as to what happened here: one witness tells of having seen the wife of the officer pleading with him not to kill the boy. The evidence of the coroner later indicated that there must have been considerable torture of the boy before a single bullet ended his life, there were blue marks on his jaw where he might have been struck by the pistol barrel. The shot that finally killed him entered the boy's body at an angle that suggests that it might have been fired while he was lying on the ground. The "justice of the peace" jury returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide," and Robinson was released.

Outrages similar to these have been reported from Miami, Tampa, and other cities of the state. The failure of many of them to be properly described by police, however, and immediate whitewashes, when they are finally publicized, are believed to be the reasons that the number of known deaths in the terror reign have been only eight.

Lynchings-1937
6
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

General.

5597

The mistaken impression that lynchers always escape unpunished in the south is an encouragement both to lynching and to those who believe federal law the only way to prevent the crime. In the 30-year period ending in 1930, the records show that some 70 lynchers were caught and given prison sentences. In Georgia, in 1930, for example, two lynchers were sentenced to imprisonment for life. In the same year Texas imposed prison terms on two. And in Alabama, during the governorship of Thomas E. Kilby (1919-23) some 34 lynchers were caught and punished.

In other words, mob murderers can be punished and have been punished in the south. Not enough of them and not severely enough, it is true, but it seems important that all parties concerned should know the facts.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
June 9, 1937

Forum Of The People

ALABAMA'S RECORD IN PUNISHING LYNCHERS

To Editor, The Age-Herald:

For one of the relatively few times in history a state is taking determined steps to discover in orderly court the truth about lynching. Too often in the past investigations into mob activities have come to naught, and not infrequently the public was left with the impression that little serious effort was being made to discover the truth and punish the guilty. Today we have a different story to tell. Alabama is without doubt making a serious effort. . . .

You will recognize the above as an excerpt from your editorial of Saturday. A natural inference to be drawn from it is that this is the first time Alabama had ever made a "serious effort to discover the truth and punish the guilty."

Do you know that Alabama has been more successful in that direction, not only than any other state, but more than all other states of the union combined? Punishment of lynchers between 1900 and 1930 were as follows:

Texas, 1920, three—two years; Texas 1930, two—two years. Total five.

Georgia, 1922, three—one to four years; Georgia, 1926, two—four years to life; Georgia, 1930, two—life. Total seven.

Virginia, 1923, two—one and two years. Oklahoma, 1922, seven—life. Illinois, 11—indeterminate. Missouri, one — 10 years. Total 21.

Making a combined total of 33.

Alabama, 1900, three—10 years to life; Alabama, 1919, 28—$100 to 15 years; Alabama, 1920, three—$100 to three months; Alabama, 1930, three—15 years to life. Total 37.

Grand total, 70.

You will observe that all other states of the union over a period of 30 years punished 33 lynchers, whereas Alabama alone over the same period punished 37.

Note further that Alabama punished during two years 34 against 33 for the rest of the country during 30 years; and further, during the period under consideration, Alabama was the first state to get a conviction—1900.

These figures were taken from a publication called "The Mob Still Rides," furnished by the research and field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Atlanta, Ga.

E. A. DARDEN.

Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
December 16, 1937

STATE OF ALABAMA PROVIDES PUNISHMENT FOR LYNCHING

Alabama is one of the nine States that provides punishment for lynching. The others are Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The punishment prescribed in these States runs from one year imprisonment to the death penalty. There are two other States, Illinois and New Jersey, that provide sentences of from thirty days to five years for mob violence. Five others, (Connecticut, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, South Carolina) provide for fines for personal injury done by a mob, and still ten others (California, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin) provide fines for damage done to property, but have no laws against lynching and no punishment is provided for injury done to a person by a mob. The other States have no laws dealing with lynching or mob violence.

Opp, Ala., News
December 23, 1937

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Georgia.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

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Four Bound Over In Flogging Case

Five Justices Hear Complaints in Dawson

DAWSON, Ga., Aug. 20. (AP)—Four men were bound over to Terrell superior court on $2,000 bond each at a hearing before five justices of the peace here this morning after they had been held on a charge of fatally beating Will Gatewood, Negro, Aug. 14.

The decision was allowed by the justices after an agreement had been reached by R. R. Jones, acting for the state, and Leon Ferguson, defense attorney, although they stated that no reduction on the charge of murder was made.

The justices sitting on the case were Mayor R. R. Martin ex-officio justice; Sam F. George of Parrott; W. M. Daniel of the Twelfth district; J. L. Hass of the Herod district, and Hohn McLendon of Sasser. They were named by Sheriff J. A. Turner.

The defendants were listed as A. D. Henry, Sid Herrington, Alton Fleming and Wilbur Timmerman of the Bronwood district.

Lynchings-1937
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Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Mississippi.

5599

MOB RULE CONDEMNED AFTER DUAL LYNCHING

Citizens and Officials Demand Punishment of Leaders in Winona Affair

4-15-37

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss., April 14.—Lynch law was condemned today as cowardly, brutal and lawless by officials and citizens who demanded punishment for mob leaders who yesterday tortured and killed two negroes, Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjack" McDaniels, accused of killing George S. Windham, a white store keeper, at Duck Hill, Dec. 30, 1936.

The negroes were seized from Sheriff E. E. Wright and deputies of Montgomery County at the Winona courthouse just after they had been arraigned and pleaded innocent to murder charges.

Negroes Were Chained

The officers were overpowered in the courthouse yard by a hundred members of the mob and the two negro prisoners were chained about their necks by mob members and taken into the woods near Duck Hill and tied to trees.

There they screamed a confession of the killing under torture of blow torch fire as a crowd of an estimated 500 men, women and children looked on.

Townes was burned to death and McDaniels was killed by a pistol shot in the head. Another negro named "Shorty" was beaten severely by mob members and ordered to leave the county.

Governor White expressed official regrets over the double lynching and said he was taken by complete surprise by the violence.

White Boasted of Record

At the time the first report of the lynching was conveyed to him the governor had just finished addressing the Chemurgic Conference here and boasting that Mississippi had not experienced a lynching for 15 months.

The governor requested District Attorney Clarence Morgan at Winona to investigate the lynching fully and report to him.

In the meantime Chairman Sumners, Democrat of Texas, of the House judiciary committee, who is leading southern Democrats in opposing the proposed federal anti-lynching bill at Washington, wired Governor White that if Mississippi did not bring "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment" the state could not in effect escape becoming an accessory after a fact to the crime.

Fight Is Hampered

The Duck Hill lynchings, Chairman Sumners said, "is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the states."

Governor White declared that the lynching was unjustified and said he deeply deplored the mob action.

"It was my understanding that the Townes negro had already confessed," the governor said. "I had absolutely no prior knowledge that any violence of any sort was threatened."

Similar statements were made by Judge John Allen, trial judge at Winona, who had just set Townes' trial for Thursday and by Sheriff Wright.

These officials said that every step had been taken to insure a regular and fair trial for the negroes and that counsel had been appointed to defend them. The sheriff said he was helpless before the mob.

The executive committee of the Mississippi Council, Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued a statement declaring that all Christian citizens of Mississippi were humiliated by the action of the mob.

GRAND JURY TO GET DATA ON LYNCHINGS

WINONA, Miss., April 14.—(AP) District Attorney Morgan said tonight he was pushing an investigation of the lynching of two negroes — Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjack" McDaniels—at Duck Hill, Miss., yesterday.

"We will do everything we can," the prosecutor said, "but I am afraid nothing will come of the investigation.

"The grand jury is still in session, and the result of our investigation will be laid before that body."

Sumners Warns White Of State's Position

WASHINGTON, April 14.—(AP)—Chairman Sumners of Texas, of the House judiciary committee telegraphed Governor White of Mississippi today that state could not escape being an accessory to the Duck Hill lynchings unless it brings "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

4-15-37

Terming the lynchings "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutality execute," Representative Sumners said:

"It is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the state.

"It will be effectively seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the states to govern. As one southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact, cannot escape in effect becoming an accessory after the fact unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Chairman Sumners is leader of southern Democrats opposing the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill. Earlier, the measure's author, Representative Gavagan, Democrat of New York, predicted its passage by a safe margin.

Hattiesburg, Miss. American
April 14, 1937

Lynching Action Awaited

Governor White Withholds Comment on Burning of Negroes at Winona

(By Associated Press)

WINONA, Miss., April 14.—Montgomery county officers from whose hands two negroes were snatched by a highly-organized, fast-moving mob and lynched after being brutally tortured, were busy today preparing reports for Governor Hugh L. White.

The chief executive let it be known that he would not decide upon a course of action nor would he comment pending receipt of details of one of the state's most violent lynchings.

He notified Chairman H. W. Sumners of the house judiciary committee that he had requested court officials to make a full investigation.

The double lynching occurred while the house of representatives was debating the Cavagan anti-lynching bill.

White Speaking

Too, it occurred while Governor White was telling the farm chemurgic conference in Jackson that he was "justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in 15 months."

The words hardly had left the executive's lips before he was called by his secretary and notified that some 500 mobsmen had lynched Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjack" McDaniels near Duck Hill, Miss., scene of a white storekeeper's murder last December for which the negroes had been arraigned just an hour before and had pleaded innocent.

Calmly and with precision the mobsmen pinned the arms of Sheriff E. E. Wright and his two deputies to their sides as they were transferring the negroes from the courthouse to the jail.

Into school buses the negroes were pushed and rushed to Duck Hill with other members of the mob trailing in some 50 automobiles.

Townes and McDaniels were tied to trees, stripped to the waist and tortured. Blow torch flames seared their twisting bodies. Townes died from the burns. McDaniels was shot to death after being burned.

Women, Children Attend

Reliable reports told of women and children witnessing the lynching.

Almost as quickly as it assembled the mob dispersed. Authorities here asserted they had been taken completely by surprise; that it all took place so quickly none of the mobsmen were recognized.

Judge John Allen before whom the negroes had been arraigned, said through a spokesman that "there was no indication that violence was impending." He added that "all had taken for granted that the law would be allowed to take its course."

Sheriff Wright said it was "most unexpected." He described the mob as "orderly," but said his pleas to let the law take its course fell on deaf ears. "I shall use every means possible to bring those responsible for the mob before the bar of justice," he said.

District Attorney Clarence Morgan said he "had no idea that we were having mob violence until all was over."

LYNCHING "HUMILIATING"

McCOMB, Miss., April 14.—The lynching of two negroes yesterday near Duck Hill, Miss., was declared humiliating to Christian citizens of Mississippi in a statement issued here today by the executive committee of the Mississippi Council of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching.

The statement was made public by Mrs. L. W. Alford, of McComb, state chairman. It follows:

"The executive committee of the State Council of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and all Christian citizens of the state of Mississippi are humiliated at the recent crime of mob murder in Montgomery county.

"We believe such acts of lawlessness are detrimental to government of our country, contrary to God's laws and handicap our mission work in other lands."

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ASKED TO PROBE CRIME

JACKSON, April 14—District Attorney Clarence Morgan has been asked by Governor Hugh White to fully investigate the lynching of two negroes at Duck Hill, Miss., yesterday.

Governor White said today he deeply regretted the mob action, and added that he saw no justification for it.

"It was my understanding that the Townes negro had already confessed."

The governor said he had had "absolutely no prior knowledge that any violence of any sort was threatened." The first information he had of the lynching, he said, was supplied by the press.

He said he did not even know the negroes were being brought to trial at Winona this week.

The chief executive grinned at the irony of his own boastful statement before a farm chemurgic conference here yesterday that Mississippi had not had a lynching in 15 months.

"Just as I made that statement," he said, " a big placard fell from the wall right at the speaker's stand. That must have been an omen of some kind. Right at that moment the negroes were being lynched.

Columbus, Miss. Dispatch
April 14, 1937

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WASHINGTON, April 14—Representative Gavagan (D-NY) author of a federal anti-lynching bill, predicted today his measure would pass the house by a safe margin.

The weekly meeting of the Cobate and vote tomorrow on the measure, which would impose heavy fines and prison terms on peace officers who permit a person to be taken from their custody and lynched. Similar punishment would be provided for members of lynching mobs.

The lynching of two negroes in Mississippi yesterday spurred republican and northern democratic backers of the measure. They called that incident a "timely" argument for the bill in the first round of debate yesterday afternoon.

On the other side, southern democrats, led by Representative Summers (D-Tex) marshalled their forces in an attempt to defeat the measure. They contend it is unnecessary and an unconstitutional invasion of states rights.

Columbus, Miss. Dispatch
April 13, 1937

WINONA MOB GETS TWO PRISONERS

Overpowers Sheriff, Deputies Takes Negroes Toward Duck Hill

JACKSON, Miss., April 13—(AP) The Jackson Daily News was informed by a correspondent that two negroes taken from the jail at Winona this afternoon were being burned at the stake by a mob. The correspondent said the mob was also seeking a third negro implicated in the slaying of Sam Windham.

Governor Hugh White could not be immediately located this afternoon, but Adjutant General John A. O'Keefe said he had received no request for national guard troops at Winona.

At winona a group of 250 men formed the mob, the correspondent said. Members of the mob threw the negroes into a school bus after overpowering the sheriff and his deputies, and the bus was driven to a point near Duck Hill, the correspondent said.

The negroes, it was reported, were tied to stakes, and their bodies seared by flames from blow torches.

One report said that while the negroes were tied to the stake, and were being tortued by the blow torch flames, they confessed to the Windham slaying, and named a third negro whom they said participated in the slaying.

This report said the two negroes were still alive at mid-afternoon, though near death, but that consumption of the mob's vengeance would await finding of the third negro.

Montgomery County officers said Townes confessed that he killed Windham, operator of a country store near Duck Hill.

Windham was shot as he stood in the doorway of his store. The shot was fired from ambush.

The Townes negro was sought for questioning immediately after the slaying, and was surrounded on one occasion, but succeeded in escaping after exchanging gunfire with officers.

WINONA, Miss., April 13—(AP)—H. A. Curtis, a deputy sheriff, said this afternoon that an angry mob overpowered the entire sheriff's force here about today, took two negroes accused of killing a white man from their custody, and sped off in the direction of Duck Hill, near where the white man's slaying occurred.

Southerner Is Flogged, Sues Lumber Company For $10,000

Man Says He Was Stripped and 'Unmercifully Whipped' by Two White Men.

JACKSON, Miss., Oct. 7—(ANP)—Charging that he was stripped and "unmercifully whipped" by two white men employed by the Pearl River Valley Lumber Company at Canton, Jesse Ficklin, colored resident here, has filed suit for $10,000 damages against the company in the U. S. District court.

Ficklin's bill of complaint alleges that he was flogged "at the point of a gun after attempting to move his sister's household goods from company's premises in a truck." He named Clarence Dorman and Harrison Rimmer as the two white employes of the lumber company who had assaulted him. He said they took him into the woods, forced him to remove his clothing and bend over a log, while they whipped him. It is said the company has not yet filed an answer to Ficklin's allegations.

NEGRO CHARGES FLOGGING

Sues Canton Lumber Company For $10,000 Damages

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 28.—(AP)—Jessie Ficklin, negro, charged today that he was stripped and "unmercifully whipped" by two men employed by the Pearl River Valley Lumber Company at Canton.

The negro asked $10,000 damages against the company in a suit filed in United States District Court here.

His bill of complaint alleged that he was flogged "at the point of a gun" after attempting to move his sister's household goods from company premises in a truck.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Mississippi.

5600

WHITE PLANS INQUIRY INTO DOUBLE LYNCHING

Mississippi Governor Calls Duck Hill Mob Action "Inexcusable"

Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., April 16.—Branding the Duck Hill torture-lynchings of two negroes as "inexcusable," Governor White today planned a personal investigation of the mob action.

"The lynchings were absolutely inexcusable as the court had assured the negroes a speedy trial, which on the basis of the confessions probably would have resulted in death penalties," the governor said. "Attorneys had been named by the court to represent the negroes and trial date had been set."

County Officials Active

Governor White had planned to visit the scene of Tuesday's lynchings this afternoon, but changed his plans to next week. Meantime, Montgomery County officials continued an investigation and will file their findings with the governor.

"The action of the mob does not meet with the approval of the citizens of Mississippi, the governor said in explaining that the action of a few people should not result in condemnation of the entire state.

Coming at a time when the federal anti-lynching bill is before Congress, the governor saw with its probable enactment an increase in the cost of law enforcement in the state.

"The bill, if enacted, will prove very costly to the state of Mississippi, the governor said. "No sheriff will take a semblance of a chance in the future and will call for troops whether threats are made or not.

"Enforcement of the act will require a standing army in Mississippi," he said.

Action Not Anticipated

County officials explained that no mob action had been anticipated and for that reason no request made of the governor for the use of troops during the trial. Governor White said he did not even know the negroes were on trial.

Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjack" McDaniels were forcibly taken from Sheriff Wright Tuesday and lynched, after being tortured with a blowtorch. Townes, who had been arrested in Memphis earlier in the month, confessed shooting George S. Windham last December, and implicated McDaniels, who denied any connection until a confession was cried out during torture by a blowtorch as he was chained to a tree near Townes.

A third negro, "Shorty" Durham, implicated by Townes, denied any connection, but was severely beaten with small trees and forced out of the county. As he fled the mob, several pistol shots were fired at his feet.

Sheriff Wright and deputies, from whom the negroes were taken, said they did not recognize any of the mobsters, who met them as they came downstairs from the county courtroom.

LYNCHERS 'NOT RECOGNIZABLE'

So Says Sheriff As Probe Of Mississippi Double Killing Is 'Promised'

By United Press.

DUCK HILL, Miss., April 14.—A grand jury investigation into the lynching of two Negroes was promised today. Sheriff E. E. Wright and two deputies announced that they had not recognized any members of the mob that tortured the prisoners with blow torches before killing them.

Full details of the lynchings spread over the country-side today, though it was witnessed only by members of the mob. Details indicated that the Negroes had died slowly, under frightful torture.

They were Roosevelt Townes, 25, and "Bootjack" McDaniel, 26, accused of murdering George S. Windham, operator of a cross roads store near here, on Dec. 30.

Since their arrest, they had been held in the mob proof jail at Jackson. Yesterday they were taken to Winona, the county seat, for arraignment. They pleaded not guilty and Sheriff Wright and his deputies were about to take them back to Jackson when the mob of approximately 300 men surrounded them.

Wright said he pleaded with the mob in vain. It had a school bus and into the bus went the manacled prisoners. Thirty to 40 automobiles loaded with men followed the bus to a woods near the scene of the murder. There the Negroes were chained to trees. A mobster produced a blow torch and in a minute it was roaring above the pleadings of the doomed men.

The torch was applied first to McDaniel. He screamed for mercy and it was withdrawn. Asked to confess the murder, he refused, and the torch was applied again. He then agreed to confess. He said that Townes had killed the white storekeeper and that he had assisted. A volley of shots ended it, and McDaniel dangled in his chains, dead.

Drenches With Gas

Townes was invited to confess, then the torch was applied to him. It was a slow process, punctuated by screams and sobbing, and by the time he had confessed in the detail the mob wanted, he was but partly conscious, held up by the chains. Brush was piled around him. Someone came forward with a can of gasoline. Townes was drenched with it, as was the brush. The instant the match was applied a great sheet of flame shot up and Townes died in it.

On the way to the scene of the lynching, the mob picked up another Negro, "Shorty" Dorroh. Between the executions, the mob beat and kicked him until he confessed that he had helped the others plan the murder, but had not taken part in it. After watching the others die, he was beaten some more, then told to "get out of the state." He disappeared immediately and it was believed that he had obeyed.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
April 14, 1937

PUNISHMENT OF LYNCHERS IS DEMANDED

Chairman of Judiciary Committee Says State Accessory to Duck Hill Violence Unless Offenders Punished

Washington, April 14—(AP)—Chairman Sumners (D-Tex) of the House Judiciary Committee telegraphed Governor White of Mississippi today that state could not escape being an accessory to the Duck Hill lynchings unless it brings "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Terming the lynching "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutality execute," Sumners said:

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"It will be effectively seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the state to govern. As one Southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact cannot escape in effect becoming an accessory after the fact unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Sumners is leader of Southern Democrats opposing the Gavagan Federal Anti-Lynching Bill.

REPORT ASKED

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Too, it occurred while Governor White was telling the Farm Chemurgic conference in Jackson that he was "justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in 15 months."

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TORTURED WITH FIRE

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District Attorney Clarence Morgan said he "had no idea that we were having mob violence until all was over."

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
April 16, 1937

White to Demand Data on Lynching

JACKSON, Miss., April 16.—(AP)—Montgomery county authorities will be presented with a formal request for a written report of the blowtorch lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill, Miss., Tuesday, Gov. Hugh White announced. Meanwhile, the executive received a protest to the mob action from more than 5,000 Methodist women in north Mississippi, who spoke through the officers of the north Mississippi missionary conference.

The following telegram, signed by Mrs. H. L. Talbert, Clarksdale, president of the conference, and Mrs. R. P. Neblett, Brooksville, secretary, was received by the governor: "The more than 5,000 members of the Woman's Missionary society of north Mississippi are shocked and humiliated at the brutal lynchings perpetrated by the mob at Duck Hill. We wish to register our protest and urge a thorough official investigation of the mob violence and the conviction of the guilty parties."

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
April 14, 1937

OFFICERS WILL MAKE REPORTS ON LYNCHINGS

Governor White Requests Court Officials To Make Full Investigation

WINONA, Miss., April 14 (AP)—Montgomery county officers from whose hands two negroes were snatched by a highly organized, fast-moving mob and lynched after being brutally tortured, were busy today preparing reports for Governor Hugh L. White.

The chief executive let it be known that he would not decide upon a course of action nor would be comment pending receipt of details of one of the state's most violent lynchings.

He notified Chairman H. W. Summers of the house judiciary committee that he had requested court officials to make a full investigation.

The double lynching occurred while the house of representatives was debating the Cavagan anti-lynching bill.

Too, it occurred while Governor White was addressing the Farm Chemurgic Conference in Jackson that he was "justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in 15 months."

The words hardly had left the executive's lips before he was called by his secretary and notified that some 500 mobsmen had lynched Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjack" McDaniels near Duck Hill, Miss., scene of a white storekeeper's murder last December for which the negroes had been arraigned just an hour before and had pleaded innocent.

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Into school buses the negroes were pushed and rushed to Duck Hill with other members of the mob trailing in some 50 automobiles.

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Reliable reports told of women and children witnessing the lynching.

Almost as quickly as it assembled the mob dispersed. Authorities here asserted they had been taken completely by surprise; that it all took place so quickly none of the mobsmen were recognized.

Judge John Allen before whom the negroes had been arraigned, said, through a spokesman that "there was no indication that violence was impending." He added that "all had taken for granted that the law would be allowed to take its course."

Sheriff Wright said it was "most unexpected." He described the mob as "orderly," but said his pleas to let the law take its course fell on deaf ears. "I shall use every means possible to bring those responsible for the mob before the bar of justice," he said.

District Attorney Clarence Morgan said he "had no idea that we were having mob violence until all was over."

McCOMB, Miss., April 14 (AP)—The lynching of two negroes yesterday near Duck Hill, Miss., was declared humiliating to Christian citizens of Mississipi in a statement issued here today by the executive committee of the Mississippi Council of the Association of Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching.

The statement was made public by Mrs. L. W. Alford, of McComb, state chairman. It follows:

"The executive committee of the State Council of Southern Women for the prevention of Lynching and all Christian citizens of the state of Mississippi are humiliated at the recent crime of mob murder in Montgomery county.

"We believe such acts of lawlessness are detrimental to government of our country, contrary to God's laws and handicap our mission work in other lands."

Mississippi.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

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SHERIFF IN COLLUSION
WITH DUCK HILL MOB,
INVESTIGATOR SAYS
Press Service N.A.A.C.P.

Southern White Man Sent in by N.A.A.C.P.; Says Mississippians "Rather Pleased" With the Lynchings; That They Feared Evidence Was Not Strong Enough to Convict Men; and They Do Not Intend to Permit Anything To Be Done About the Lynchings

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New York, May 14.- Sheriff Wright of Montgomery County, Miss., in which the Duck Hill blow-torch double lynching was staged April 13, is generally believed to have been in collusion with the mob, according to a sensational report on the lynchings made to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by a southern white man who investigated the double crime for the N.A.A.C.P.

It is recorded that Sheriff Wright did not call Governor White on the telephone until about two hours after the mob had taken the prisoners from him, and that when he did telephone, although he had never left the court house and presumably did not know what was happening, he reported to the Governor that there had been a lynching.

A leading citizen of Winona told the investigator: "There are a thousand people in Montgomery County who can name the lynchers."

After reciting the details of the lynching and pointing out the general indifference of the community, the report of the investigator to the N.A.A.C.P. concludes:

"It is generally held that the mob consisted primarily of the kinsmen of the murdered Windham and that citizens of Webster, Calhoun, Granada and Montgomery counties participated in the lynching.

"It is likewise generally held that mob action was expected and that the Sheriff was in collusion with the members of the mob; that he offered no resistance whatever to the mob when they seized the prisoner; that he took no precaution to protect the prisoners from mob violence as witness Governor White's testimony that no guards were asked for and that the sheriff made no effort to apprehend or stop the mob after they had departed from Winona.

"It is furthermore generally held that the members of the mob are widely known and that no effort will be made to apprehend or punish any of them and that further no investigation of the lynching will be attempted. .....

"The writer was told by citizens in Montgomery, Calhoun, Granada and Chickasaw counties that the reason Townes and McDaniels were lynched was due to the fact that the white people feared they would not be convicted on the evidence that would be presented against them. Particularly was this true in the case of McDaniels.

"A former mayor told the writer that, 'These people are just looking for a chance to kill and any serious charge against a man gives them a chance to say they are adding the law by lynching.'

"Of the scores of people with whom I talked not a single one greatly deplored the lynching. The citizens of Duck Hill seemed rather well pleased with themselves. The only feature of the incident displeasing to them was the pictures taken of Townes and McDaniel and widely circulated through the press."

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Mississippi.

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Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
April 14, 1937

MONTGOMERY PREPARING T TWO LYNCHIN

GOVERNOR HAS NOT DECIDEI ON ACTION PENDING REPO

CAUSES SOLON DEBATE

Investigation of the Lynchings By District Attorney Is Ordered By Governor Hugh White—No Indication Any Violence Was Pending.

[By The Associated Press]

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Rushed To Duck Hill

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Sumners Raps Lynchings

Washington, April 14.—Chairman Sumners (D-Tex) of the House Judiciary committee telegraphed Governor White of Mississippi today that state could not escape being an accessory to the Duck Hill lynchings unless it brings "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Terming the lynchings "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutally execute," Sumners said:

"It is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the states.

"It will be effectively seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the states to govern. As one Southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact cannot escape in effect becoming an accessory after the fact unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Sumners is leader of Southern Democrats opposing the Gavagan federal anti-lynching bill. Earlier, the measure's author, Rep. Gavagan (D-NY) predicted its passage by a safe margin.

The House will conclude debate and vote tomorrow on the measure, which would impose heavy fines and prison terms on peace officers who permit a person to be taken from their custody and lynched. Similar punishment would be provided for members of lynching mobs.

The lynching of two negroes in Mississippi yesterday spurred Republican and northern Democratic backers of the measure. They called that incident a "timely" argument for the bill in the first round of debate yesterday afternoon.

Lynching Probe Ordered

Jackson, Miss., April 14.—District Attorney Clarence Morgan has been asked by Governor Hugh White to fully investigate the lynching of two negroes at Duck Hill, Miss., yesterday. Governor White said today he deeply regretted the mob action, and added that he saw no justification for it.

"It was my understanding that the Townes negro had already confessed."

The governor said he had had "absolutely no prior knowledge that any violence of any sort was threatened." The first information he had of the lynching, he said, was supplied by the press.

He said he did not even know the negroes were being brought to trial at Winona this week.

The chief executive grinned at the irony of his own boastful statement before a farm chemurgic conference here yesterday that Mississippi had not had a lynching in 15 months.

"Just as I made that statement," he said, "a big placard fell from the wall right at the speaker's stand. That must have been an omen of some kind. Right at that moment the negroes were being lynched."

Columbus, Miss. Dispatch
April 14, 1937

STATE LYNCHING REPORT PREPARED

Account of Killing of Two Montgomery County Negroes Will Go to White

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Hattiesburg, Miss. American
April 14, 1937

House Committee Chairman Exhorts State To Punish Lynchers

(By Associated Press)

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MISSISSIPPI DAILIES
DECLARE NOTHING WILL
BE DONE ABOUT DUCK HILL
Press Service N.A.A.C.P.

New York, May 7.- Nothing will be done about the blow-torch double lynching at Duck Hill, Miss., on April 13, it was declared last week by the Indianola, Miss., Sunflower Tocsim.

"Nothing will ever come of any investigation the governor or anybody else will make and not one member of the mob will ever be arrested," the paper says in an editorial. "We do not condone lynchings, but if two persons ever deserved lynching, the two brutes at Duck Hill richly deserved what they got. We have no sympathy to waste on them. None whatever."

This editorial was cited by the N.A.A.C.P. as further proof, if any were still needed, that the southern states - particularly in the deep South - will not ever do anything to stop lynching and punish lynchers and that, therefore, a federal anti-lynching law is necessary.

The Jackson, Miss., Daily News of which the veteran Negro-hater, Colonel Frederick Sullens is editor, declared editorially that the outburst over the Duck Hill lynchings was "a lot of tommy-rot."

The Columbus, Miss., Dispatch declared eiditorially that it was "sick and tired" of the South being blamed for lynchings and also that it was"sick and tired" of some southern editors joining with the critics of the South.

These editorial expressions from Mississippi represent the opposite extreme from the editorials in more enlightened sections of the South. As a matter of fact, the Mississippi editorials and one or two from Alabama papers are the worst editorials in the whole country in favor of lynching. . .

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North Carolina.

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Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
February 20. 1937

Bill Would Provide For State Bureau Of Investigation

New Law Enforcement Department Would Be Created By Companion Bill To Reorganization Bill

POWER OF ARRESTS

Director of Bureau and Assistants Would Have the Same Power As Sheriffs of Counties In State

Daily Advance Bureau
Sir Walter Hotel

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—In discussion of transfer of the State highway patrol from the revenue department and reorganization of the patrol, a companion bill setting up a new State law enforcement agency with quite wide and comprehensive powers and duties has been somewhat overlooked.

The bill, introduced by Con C. Johnston, Iredell, and referred to his committee on roads, is entitled an act to establish a State bureau of identification and investigation and many of its provisions do little more than consolidate existing record keeping agencies under one head; but in addition the new bureau is given sweeping powers to act as a police agency.

First of all, the bill would create a bureau of identification and investigation under supervision of the division of public safety as part of the Governor's office.

The Governor would be given the juicy patronage plum of appointment of a director of this bureau, with a salary which would no doubt be fixed at a very substantial sum.

This director would then, in turn "appoint a sufficient number of assistants and stenographic and clerical help."

Nor would the work of these assistants" be confined to keeping identification records. The bill provides: "The director of the bureau, and his assistants, are given the same power of arrests as is now vested in the sheriffs of the several counties."

Here is plain authority for creation of a State police force of unlimited number.

These police officers, the bill provides, "shall give assistance" to regular police officers, "at the request of the Governor."

The bureau also shall "through its director and upon request of the Governor," investigate and prepare evidence in the event of any lynching or mob violence in the State, shall investigate all cases arising from frauds in connection with elections, "when requested to do so by the Board of Elections, and when so directed by the Governor."

On the record keeping and identification sides, the bureau would keep criminal statistics and receive reports now made to the Attorney General with respect to convictions. All records of the identification at Central Prison would be transferred to the bureau.

It would be authorized to establish laboratory and use facilities of State institutions for scientific analysis of evidence.

The sum of one dollar would be taxed in each criminal case, half to be used to create a benefit fund for the State and local law enforcement officers and half to help defray expenses of the bureau.

In the view of many observers the bill would establish a veritable "Scotland Yard" for North Carolina, under the personal command and at the beck and call of the Governor, through his appointed director. The provision regarding authority of the bureau assistants in the matter of lynching and mob violence would, many feel, make an impartial probe of such occurrences more likely. There are those who feel, however, that it would give the Governor—particularly a reactionary and anti-labor Governor—too much authority in the matter of outbreaks arising from strikes.

Nothing has been heard of the bill since it went to committee a few days ago, but it will likely be reported out the first of next week.

MAN INDICTED FOR COURTROOM ASSAULT

Two True Bills Returned Against Frank Anderson By Grand Jury At Marion.

(Special to Daily News)

Marion, Sept. 9.—True bills of indictment against Frank Anderson on charges of assault with a deadly weapon and obstructing justice, were returned by a grand jury in McDowell county Superior court yesterday as a result of an attack on Mann Smith, negro, while he was on trial for criminal assault early this week. Anderson, a plumber, was arrested by court officials after the court was thrown into confusion by actions. He was jailed by Judge Felix Alley, of Waynesville, on a contempt citation. The attack caused a mistrial to be ordered.

9-10-37

Trial of the charges against Anderson will not take place at the present term of the court since Judge Alley had disqualified himself as presiding judge when the cases are called.

County police today expressed themselves as believing that the presence of national guardsmen for the new trial would not be necessary. Governor Hoey, however, at the request of Judge Alley, has ordered a detachment of troops from Morganton to appear at Marion Monday when the case is called for retrial.

South Carolina.

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Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
March 1, 1937

Suit Against Greenwood County Alleging Lynching Is Dismissed By Judge Oxner In Civil Court

The case of Ada Thompson as administratrix of the estate of Bennie Thompson against Greenwood under the statute providing for a suit against the county alleging lynching was dismissed today by Judge G. Dewey Oxner, presiding over the March term of civil court.

Bennie Thompson, a Ninety Six negro, was beaten to death on the night of October 8, 1933 near Ninety Six and four young white men, Burley Leopard, Kenneth G. Morris, G. Howard Webb and Clarence Mays, charged with killing him, were tried and acquitted at the January, 1935 term of general sessions court.

Soon after the negro's death the woman through her attorneys Hicks & Johnston, of Greenville, filed suit against the county for $2,000, alleging that he had been lynched.

The motion was dismissed by Judge Oxner today on motion of County Attorney Rupert F. Davis, who set forth that he wrote attorneys for the plaintiff Feb. 22, 1937 that he would insist on trial at the present term of court.

Judge Oxner in his dismissal orders states: "The case was called by me and counsel for the defendant announced he was ready for trial. Counsel for plaintiff was not present and there was no appearance in court of anyone on behalf of the plaintiff. It is therefore order that the case is hereby dismissed."

Tennessee

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Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
August 26, 1937

Reward For Lynchers.

Governor Gordon Browning of Tennessee has offered a reward of $5,000 for the arrest and conviction of the six men who recently lynched a Negro near Covington in Tipton County. The reward is to be paid "to any one lending that assistance to the authorities of our State that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of those guilty of this heinous offense."

"The station of the individual and the character of the offense he may have committed make no difference in this crime against society," Governor Browning said in a formal statement announcing the reward for the lynchers. "I condemn the act in the strongest possible terms and state that Tennessee thoroughly despises and condemns this form of lawlessness."

What Governor Browning condemns and what Tennessee despises was the act of the six men who took a Negro prisoner, accused of killing an officer of the law, from Sheriff Vaughan of Tipton County and brutally putting him to death. In addition to offering a $5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of these men, the Governor pledges "every other cooperation I can give to the prosecuting authorities in bringing them to justice."

It is encouraging to see Governor Browning take this attitude toward mob lawlessness in Tennessee. It is to be hoped that when the next Legislature meets he will urge the enactment of a law aimed at the suppression of the crime of lynching in the State. Such a law should class lynching as murder, it should make every member of a lynching mob liable to that charge, and it should provide an adequate penalty for Sheriffs and other officers who do not take proper measures to protect prisoners in their custody.

The reward which Governor Browning has offered for the apprehension and conviction of the men who lynched the Negro in Tipton County may not have the effect of bringing the mobsters to justice. But in the statement accompanying the announcement of the reward he indicates quite clearly his abhorrence of lynch lawlessness and his purpose to take a firm stand against it. That will hearten the law-abiding public of Tennessee, which deplores mob rule under any circumstances.

Covington, Tenn. Leader
August 19, 1937

Investigation Ordered By Judge Following Lynching Monday Night

Small Mob Took Albert Gooden From Sheriff Vaughan As Prisoner Was Being Returned to Covington From Shelby County Jail—Charged With Killing Mason Marshal.

A sweeping investigation has been ordered by Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist following the surrender by Sheriff Will Vaughan of his prisoner, Albert Gooden, 35-year-old negro, to a mob of only six men Monday night about 9:15 a short distance south of Brighton on the Jeff Davis highway.

Gooden, who had not been indicted by the grand jury, had been taken to Memphis for safe-keeping after his alleged slaying on the night of July 17, of Marshal Chester Doyle, of Mason. The sheriff states that he was returning the negro to Covington for trial.

John Winford, Covington haberdasher, was the third man in the car when the prisoner was seized. He states that he had merely accompanied the sheriff to Memphis upon the latter's invitation and had no knowledge of the officer's intention to return the negro until a short time before their departure from Memphis. He states that the sheriff merely informed him that he was going to the city for pump supplies, declaring that he would not have made the trip had he known that the officer had the return of the negro in mind.

Lynched

The negro was lynched, presumably a short while after his capture, at an iron bridge over the Beaver Bottom drainage canal on a dirt road between Wright's and Gainsville. The body, however, was not discovered until about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning, when Chief Deputy V. W. Pickens and Special Officer J. T. Scott, both of Covington, were searching the area and found the bridge-floor covered with cartridges. They also found lying on the bridge the sheriff's pistol, which was taken from him by members of the mob.

When found the dead negro was still hand-cuffed and was lying on the edge of the canal, his head in the water. A piece of frayed rope, which had either been shot in two or had broken when he was thrown or pushed from the bridge, was still tied about his neck. The other part of the rope was still tied to the bridge.

The negro had been riddled with bullets, several dozen bullet wounds being found. The head had been almost severed, apparently from a charge of buckshot. The bottom of the canal is about 15 feet from the top of the bridge railing, and it could not be determined whether his neck was broken before the rope parted or whether he died of pistol and gunshot wounds.

Forced From Road

Sheriff Vaughan was occupying the front seat of his automobile and had Gooden beside him on the ill-fated trip. The negro had never confessed the killing and the sheriff sought to obtain admission of guilt from him as they drove toward Covington.

Mr. Winford says he suggested to the sheriff that he ought to pull over and let a car pass. This was the opportunity their pursuers were evidently awaiting as, when the offier's car moved over toward the shoulder of the highway, the other car pulled diagonally over in front of them, compelling them to stop. Mr. Winford stated that as the pursuing car passed by before being stopped in front of them he could see the muzzles of several guns pointed out the window.

As both cars came to a stop five men, well masked with handkerchiefs, leaped out of their small sedan and surrounded the sheriff's automobile.

With the sixth man in the masked party still at the wheel of their car, one man ordered the sheriff from his car, disarming him. Another opened the door and ordered Mr. Winford to the road. The three others dragged Gooden from the car. It is said that he exclaimed that they were "Mason men" when the car pulled in front of them.

The negro was manacled, but he knocked one of his captors down and escaped for a few minutes, running down the road, where he was caught, slugged with the butt end of a pistol and forced to get in the car of his captors.

Sheriff Vaughan sought to induce the men to give the negro back to him.

"Men, you are doing the wrong thing. Give the negro back to me," he is quoted as saying several times, telling the masked men that he was certain to be given the limit for his crime, evidence of which was then in the hands of the grand jury. The

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ar. Winford states that the quintet was very nervous, that he was without a coat and wore summer clothing with his sleeves rolled up but that he was searched twice for weapons. He adds that he feared something might happen any minute to cause the men to begin shooting, because of their nervousness and his only conversatiton with them was to ask for permission to light a cigar-

otte. He also says that the member of the mob who lighted a match for him, after refusing him permission to get one out of his pocket, turned his head away as the flare of the match lighted his face.

Quick Get Away

For some reason the masked group left the keys in the sheriff's car as they got hastily into their car with their quarry and drove rapidly away to the north after warning the officer against pursuit.

It is thought they turned east at the first road leading through Brighton toward the scene of the lynching itself. Their car bore no license number, according to both the sheriff and Mr. Winford.

A few minutes after they had disappeared, Sheriff Vaughan started at high speed for Covington. He organized searching parties of officers who left at once for the south part of the county. He, Chief Deputy Pickens and Night Marshal J. A. Fredrickson made a hurried run to Mason, thinking the mob might return there to lynch the negro at or near the scene of his alleged crime.

They found, however, that few people if any in Mason were aware that Gooden had been taken and their visit occesioned great excitement. The search was continued after the sheriff's return to Covington, but the body was not found until 3 o'clock when, as stated, Deputy Pickens and Special Officer Scott found it under the bridge. The body was brought here by a colored mortician, the sheriff later turning the dead negro over to his brother, also a mortician.

Believe Gooden Guilty

Officers state that there is no doubt of Gooden's guilt. The grand jury secured affidavits from a negro woman known as Jennie Lou Yancey, containing statements of Gooden's alleged threats against Doyle. The woman stated that she was struck in the raid on the place on July 17 and that Gooden escaped through a window at the time, shouting that she would be the last woman Doyle ever struck. A few minutes later the shots were fired through a rear door that killed the marshal. The woman also stated that Gooden had come to the place armed with a shotgun.

Officers state that Allison Plummer, whom they are holding as accessory after the fact, corroborates the woman's testimony regarding Gooden being armed and at the place on the night of the fatal affray. Plummer is charged with aiding Gooden to hide after the shooting.

The lynching is the aftermath of a craps game raid on a place operated by Poney Gooden, a brother of the dead negro, and which is located to the west of Mason. Marshal Doyle, who was killed, was accompanied by Sheriff Vaughan. The former went on into a back room after entering he place, and it was there that he was shot. As he fell mortally wounded he was said to have emptied his pistol, killing one negro, Jack Bolton, 24, and wounding another, Oliver Twist, 25. The sheriff, who heard the shooting, was in the front of the place at the time.

Chief Deputy Vernon Pickens picked up Gooden and Plummer on Sunday, both being placed in jail here, Gooden being rushed to Memphis that night when the sheriff learned that a mob was forming in Mason to take him from the jail. Several carloads arrived Sunday night, but they were convinced that their quarry had been taken to Memphis and no effort was made to harm officers at the jail.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
August 24, 1937

State Offers $5,000 Reward In Lynching

Gov. Gordon Browning today authorized the State's maximum reward of $5,000 for information leading to apprehension and conviction of members of the mob which last week took Albert Gooden, Negro prisoner, from the Tipton County Sheriff and lynched him.

In announcing the reward, the Governor issued the following statement:

"It seems that on an occasion last week in Tipton County in flagrant violation of law and order, certain individuals unknown as yet seized one Albert Gooden who was in the lawful possession of the Sheriff as a prisoner and lynched him.

"This is an offense against the name and decent feelings of our State. The station of the individual and the character of the offense he may have committed make no difference on this crime against society.

"I condemn the act in the strongest possible terms and state that Tennessee thoroughly despises and condemns this form of lawlessness.

"In order to be of the utmost possible assistance in bringing to justice those who were guilty of this heinous offense, under the authority given me by the code of my State, I hereby offer the maximum reward of $5,000 to anyone tendering that assistance to the authorities of our State that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of said individuals.

"And I further pledge every other cooperation I can give to the prosecuting authorities in bringing them to justice.

"GORDON BROWNING,
"Governor."

Louisville, Miss. Journal
August 27, 1937

ANOTHER JURY LYNCHING PROBE ENDS IN "NOTHING TO REPORT"

The Tipton county, Tennessee, grand jury charged with investigating the county's first lynching since the War Between the States, recesses with a statement that they had nothing to report.

Jurors say witnesses testified they "heard shots" but "saw nothing." No witness could identify any of the mob members.

The grand jury didn't call the sheriff but he had publicly stated that he could not identify any of them either.

The grand jury may resume the investigation when it reconvenes next month, but these statements indicate that it will meet the familiar fate of similar investigations, despite the circuit judge's demands that everybody connected with the lynching be indicted for first degree murder. And this will probably be duly emphasized when the anti-lynching bill comes up again the next session of congress, as come it will.

This lynching was of the wholly indefensible type. The crime of which the victim was accused was murder, not rape. His guilt had not been definitely established. He was in the hands of officers when seized, and speedy trial was assured. Neither did the mob members have the benefit of the plea of "suddenly aroused passions." The crime was committed a month before the lynching.

A few successful prosecutions of mobsters in such cases would do more than anything else to reduce lynchings, and to reduce the menace of federal anti-lynching legislation. But the difficulty of obtaining indictments in most such instances also illustrates the futility of the proposed federal legislation. Cases under it would have had to be tried in federal courts in the same districts, and the federal grand juries would be drawn from the same communities as the state grand juries which refuse to indict.—Clarion Ledger.

Just another evidence that there is but one way to reduce mob law, and that is for the Courts to function more promptly, and more justly against the criminal .The beginning point is for the more substantial element of our people to take a hand in Courts, from the Grand Juries down to the petit juries. Added to this must be the certain punishment for the criminal after he is convicted. In other words, let our American laws function as they should without fear or favor, and that must be done by real people who wish to see law and order enforced, and are willing to do their part, instead of throwing off on "George."

Jackson, Tenn. Sun
November 7, 1937

The Tipton county grand jury adjourned after a three-day session without considering the lynching in August of Albert Gooden, negro, accused of the slaying of Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason. The July grand jury, after three investigations, said it was unable to establish the identity of the guilty parties.

Lynchings-1937
Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

Tennessee

5606

Ten Witnesses To 7th Lynching Of Year Are Heard; Continue Case

COVINGTON, Tenn.—(ANP)—Another argument for enactment of a federal anti-lynching law was seen Wednesday when the Tipton county grand jury, ordered into special session to investigate the lynching early Tuesday of Albert Gooden, 35, recessed without making a report although 10 witnesses were heard.

The grand jury will reconvene Sept. 1 and it is expected they will continue their probe of the nation's seventh lynching this year, the first for 1937 in Tennessee and the first in this county since the Civil War.

Circuit Court Judge R. B. Baptist, who called the grand jury into special session seven hours after the victim's bullet-riddled body was found lying face down in a drainage ditch here, described the atrocity as "one of the most horrible and disgraceful crimes of Tipton county" and said he would be satisfied with nothing less than a sweeping inquiry.

"Every one participating, aiding or abetting in the lynching is guilty of murder of the first degree," he declared, "and it is the duty of the grand jury to make not a perfunctory but a full, complete and searching investigation and go to the bottom of this thing.

"If there is any man on the grand jury who feels he cannot do this he should notify the court of that fact."

Three witnesses were heard Tuesday and the other seven Wednesday. Several testified they "heard shots" but "saw nothing." Members of the jury said afterward the investigation had not produced a "worthwhile lead."

Sheriff W. J. Vaughn, from whom Gooden was taken by six masked men at 9:15 Monday night, offered to testify but he was not called. Appearing were Deputy William Hoffman of Brighton, assistant jailer here the night of July 18 when an earlier mob tried to get Gooden, two other officers and some men who live near the scene of the lynching.

The victim had been held in the Shelby county jail at Memphis for safe-keeping since July 19. He was charged with the killing of Chester Doyle, city marshal of Mason in a dice game raid July 17. Gooden allegedly objected to Doyle's manhandling of a Negro woman. However, he had never confessed the slaying.

Accompanied by John Winford, friend and businessman of Vaughn, the sheriff went to Memphis to return Gooden here to Covington jail.

Vaughn said he tried to make the trip secretly to forestall mob violence and Winford himself did not know where they were going until they arrived at the Memphis jail.

With the prisoner in the front seat, handcuffed, the trio started home. About a mile south of Brighton, just over the Shelby county line, a car in which six men were riding overhauled them and forced them to the side of the road.

Gooden, sensing what was about to happen, cried out, "Them's Mason men!"

Vaughn said one of the masked men leaped from the machine, stuck a gun in his face and took his revolver while another searched Winford. Despite the officer's pleas to "let the law take its course," the others dragged Gooden from the auto.

Their intended victim, struggling and screaming, almost got away when he suddenly straightened up and knocked one of his captors down, but he was quieted by a blow from a pistol butt. The men drove off, ordering the sheriff not to follow under pain of being fired upon, in their car from which license plates had been removed.

The officer and companion raced to Covington, got deputies, and began searching for the mob and Gooden. They discovered his body six hours later in the midst of a heavily populated colored area, nine miles from the spot where he had been kidnapped. It had been riddled with bullets and a noose was about the neck. Nearby was the sheriff's pistol, empty.

The body was turned over to Gooden's brother, an undertaker in Mason.

Under Tennessee law, Sheriff Vaughn may be indicted for negligence and if convicted may be fined, removed from office, and prevented from ever holding any other state office.

around the outer beam of the steel bridge, 12 miles south of here. The legs were bound together at the ankles. The hands, still in handcuffs placed by officers, also were bound by heavy wire. More than 30 bullets pierced the bleeding body.

The mobsmen crowded Sheriff Vaughan's car off the highway last night, disarmed him and seized the negro. The sheriff was bringing him to Covington to face a charge of slaying City Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason, Tenn., a month ago.

The negro had been incarcerated at Memphis in view of a previous attempt at violence.

Gooden's death was recorded as the seventh lynching of 1937, Tennessee's first since 1935.

"Every one participating," Judge Baptist said in an impassioned address to the grand jury, or even "aiding or abetting" in the lynching "is guilty of murder in the first degree."

Warning against a "perfunctory" inquiry, he said he wanted the investigation "full, complete and searching."

Any juror not in sympathy with such a course, he said, should so inform him. He cited statutes directing investigations to determine whether sheriffs "negligently and wilfully or by want of proper diligence," allow prisoners to be taken from custody.

Sheriff Vaughan said he kept secret the purpose of his trip to Memphis yesterday. He was about 300 yards from Brighton on his return when "a car crowded me off the pavement."

"Five men with handkerchiefs over their faces jumped out and covered us with pistols," the sheriff said, adding they dragged the negro from the car. When the negro jerked loose, he was hit with a gun, and dumped into the second car.

Judge Urges Strict Probe Of Lynching

Slaying Of Negro Taken From Sheriff Stirs Tennessee

COVINGTON, TENN., Aug. 17.—(AP)—Six masked men, who laughed and shouted, "to hell with the law," seized a terror-stricken negro from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan early today and left his body dangling at the end of a frayed plow line after riddling it with bullets.

It was the first lynching in Tipton County since the War Between the States. Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist, ordering the county grand jury to make a "real investigation" of the "disgraceful, horrible crime," demanded first degree murder indictments against the "night riders," if their identities can be established.

Albert Gooden's body lay on the edge of Beaver Creek when officers came upon it. The head was submerged. The rope had given way under the weight of his swaying form. One end of it remained twisted

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
September 4, 1937

FIND THE LYNCHERS!

The adjournment of the Tipton County Grand Jury Thursday without a report having been made on its investigation of the recent lynching of Albert Gooden, a Negro, indicates that a Southern community has failed again in the effort to enforce the law against mob violence. Sheriff W. J. Vaughan, from whom Gooden was taken on August 16 by a mob of six masked men, has said the investigation will be continued and that if additional information is obtained it will be placed before the jury when that body reconvenes October 1.

The fact that the jury has already heard the testimony of ten persons without discovering any information that would lead to identification of the lynchers gives little reason for hope that indictments will be returned. The longer the period of time that elapses between a lynching and a thorough investigation, the harder it is to reconstruct an accurate description of the crime.

Law enforcement officers are obviously at a disadvantage whenever such crimes are committed. For that reason, if for no other, it would seem that Sheriffs who have in their custody prisoners against whom enforcement officers have shown there is likely to be public feeling would take care to protect themselves against any mob. Records in a good many cases prove that lynching is rarely attempted when law

RIGHT O, GOVERNOR!

PRESS DISPATCH FROM NASHVILLE tells of the prompt announcement of a $5,000 reward for the lynchers of a Tipton county Negro, issued by Governor Gordon Browning, upon his return to Nashville from his vacation trip to Minnesota.

The governor's action in this connection is considered the proper means of bringing the cowardly mob members to justice and it is believed that those who pulled the defenseless, cringing Negro from custody of the high sheriff, laughing out the statement, "To Hell With the Law," as they sped away to kill their victim, are shaking in their boots as they realize the reward will bring about their capture.

Tennesseans who have always had faith in Governor Browning patiently awaited some word from him as to the terrible affair, and the offer of a sufficient amount as reward for the apprehension of the mob members, coupled with his emphatic denunciation of their conduct goes even to a greater extent in justifying their faith in him.

Cleveland, Tenn. Banner
August 25, 1937

GOVERNOR SPEAKS OUT

Governor Gordon Browning spoke his mind relative to lynch law in Tennessee Tuesday when he announced a reward of $5,000 for information leading to apprehension and conviction of members of a mob which last week took Albert Goden, Negro prisoner, from the Tipton county sheriff and lynched him.

Governor Browning asserted that "this is an offense against the name and the decent feeling of our State . . . the station of the individual and the character of the offense he may have committed make no difference on the crime against society. . . . I condemn the act in the strongest terms and the State of Tennesee thoroughly despise and condemns this form of lawlessness."

Lynch law is a crime against society and Tennesseeans should be proud of the fact that we have a governor who will speak out so courageously against lynching. The Negroe's crime would have been swiftly dealt with no doubt, and have saved the State the disgrace of having this lynching charged against its records.

Judges are to blame to a large extent for lynchings due to the fact that the courts grant long cont nuances of murder cases, cunning lawyers knowing that the longer a case is delayed the more likely an acquittal.

"LIVING MEMORIAL" FOR ROGERS

During the last days of the recent session of Congres, President Roosevelt sent in a veto mesage in connection with a Houe bill authorizing an appropriation of $500-000 for Federal cooperation with the state of Oklahoma in the construction of a permanent memorial to Will Rogers at Claremore.

The type of memorial contemplated was not set out in the bill vetoed and the constituted one of the objections to it cited by the President. His views of the sort of memorial which would commemorate Will Rogers and which the President thought the beloved humorist himself would most appreciate, however supplied an item of interest attaching to the veto.

"I am sure, as one who knew the depth of Will Rogers' love for his fellow man," the President said, "that he would have desired a living memorial—something that would carry joy and gladness into the hearts of hose he left behind.

"With these thoughts in mind I cannot forebear to mention Will Rogers' deep love of children. You and I who knew him through the years are well aware of his devotion to childhood. He contributed generously to the care of handicapped children and in providing education for boys and girls who could not afford it."

The President's views upon the proper sort of memorial for Will Rogers accord with those of countless American people. No towering pile of stone no matter where its location, or its theme, would commemorate the life of the immitable Rogers. He himself would have laughed such a project to scorn. A living memorial, contributing in some way to the general supply of happiness and particularly to the happiness of those none too well supplied with that commodity would be unquestionably the most fitting manner of commemorating the beloved figure now gone to the "last round-up". Any other type of memorial would be like dressing a statue of him in a Roman toga, or crowning a cowboy replica in of him with a top hat.

Clarksville, Tenn., Star
August 26, 1937

THE GOVERNOR AND LYNCHING

Thoughtful citizens of Tennessee will have nothing but commendation for Gov. Gordon Browning's action in offering a reward of $5,000 for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of members of a mob which lynched Albert Gooden, Tipton County Negro, last week.

In offering the maximum reward allowed by the state law, Governor Browning has served notice on followers of lynch law and mob violence that he intends to do his part in upholding the good name of the State in law enforcement circles.

The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching has compiled some highly significant facts on lynchings in the five years, 1931-35. During this period 84 lynchings were reported, 72 being in the 12 Southern States. Of the total number lynched 75 were Negroes. Of those lynched nine were accused of no crime and 25 others were accused of minor offenses.

As Dr. Howard Odum writes in the Nation:

"Lynching attains none of the ends for which it has been defended. It proves no superiority. It clarifies no issues. It brings no happiness. It cheapens human life and lessens respect for human liberty and personality. It defeats the ends of justice. It violates all the better traditions of Southern honor and ideals. It sets the strong brutally over against the weak. It negates the South's claim for excellence and genius in the science of politics. Its costs is frightful in money and men. It drains off energies and resources. It blackens the reputation of every state. It cripples a race and handicaps a region."

Huntingdon, Tenn., Democrat
August 27, 1937

STATE OFFERS REWARD $5,000 IN LYNCHING

Maximum Sum for Information Leading to Conviction of Members of Mob

Gov. Gordon Browning Tuesday authorized the state's maximum reward of $5,000 for information leading to apprehension and conviction of members of the mob which last week took Albert Gooden, Negro prisoner, from the Tipton county sheriff and lynched him.

In announcing the reward, the Governor issued the following statement:

"It seems that on an occasion last week in Tipton county is flagrant violation of law and order, certain individuals unknown as yet seized one Albert Gooden who was in the lawful possession of the sheriff as a prisoner and lynched him.

"This is an offense against the name and decent feelings of our state. The station of the individual and the character of the offense he may have committed make no difference on this crime against society.

"I condemn the act in the stronges possible terms and state that Tennessee thoroughly despises and condemns this form of lawlessness.

"In order to be of the utmost possible assistance in bringing to justice those who were guilty of this heinous offense, under the authority given me by the code of my state, I hereby offer the maximum reward of $5,000 to anyone tendering that assistance to the authorities of our State that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of said individuals.

"And I further pledge every other cooperation I can as to the prosecuting authorities in bringing them to justice.

"Gordon Browning, Governor."

The Governor Acts

THE promptness with which Governor Gordon H. Browning of Tennessee acted to speed apprehension of members of the mob who lynched Albert Gooden in Tipton County on August 17, by setting aside an award of $5,000 for this purpose, coupled with his executive indictment of their conduct, is indeed heartening to those who believe in law and order.

No governor who takes seriously his oath of office, and his moral responsibility to the citizens of his state to preserve the majesty of the law, could ignore such a challenge as that the Tennessee mob hurled at state and federal law enforcement agencies when it cried aloud, "To hell with the law."

Coming as it does after the governors of Florida and Mississippi failed objectively to bring the perpetrators of recent lynchings in their states to justice, Governor Browning's action is indicative of the kind of leadership so sadly lacking in mob-imbued states before public opinion lost faith in 'states rights' in its application to the lynching evil.

It is fair to assume that, had the Tennessee governor's conception of law and citizenship rights been the code of the South ere this, effective statutes to make lynching a major crime might have been the rule rather than the exception, and the universal demand for a federal law to curb lynching might not have been so profound.

Somerville, Tenn., Falcon
September 9, 1937

JURY FINDS NO CLUES IN LYNCHING

Jurors Make No Report In Investigation Of Mob Death

The second attempt of the Tipton County grand jury to uncover clues that might lead to conviction of members of the mob that kidnapped and lynch Albert Gooden Mason negro, proved futile when the jury adjourned last Friday without making a report to Judge R. B. Baptist.

Atty. Gen. George C. Watkins announced that the case was not closed and that the jury would resume its inquiry Oct. 1. "If our investigation uncovers witnesses they may be able to throw light on the matter, they will be called before the grand jury when it reconvenes," Gen. Watkins said.

Sheriff W. J. Vaughan said that he and his dpeuties would continue the investigation. The state has offered a reward of $5,000 for information leading to the conviction of members of the mob.

Ten witnesses, most of them residents of Mason, were called during the two-day jury session last week.

Gooden, accused of slaying Chester Doyle, Mason city marshal and deputy sheriff, in a raid July 17 on a Mason dive operated by Gooden's brother, was taken from Sheriff Vaughan on the night of Aug. 16. He was hanged from a bridge between Gainesville and Atoka and his body riddled with bullets.

Tennessee

Lynchings-1937

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

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Kingsport, Tenn. Times
September 3. 1937

GOING AFTER LYNCHERS

It is obvious that Tipton county, Tennessee, is making a real effort to bring to justice the members of the cowardly mob which on August 16 snatched a negro, Albert Gooden, from the hands of officers and lynched him.

The Tipton county grand jury is conducting what has the appearance of a bona-fide investigation of the lynching. Ten or more witnesses have been subpoenaed to appear before the jury.

There is no reason why members of a cowardly gang like this should not be apprehended and punished, just as a single murderer is hunted down by the law and sent to the electric chair. It can be done and it should be done. It would be a wonderful thing for Tipton county to point the way to the South's emancipation from the curse of lynching.

And this is the way in which lynching must be abolished—by a supreme effort on the part of the decent people of the southern counties themselves. The evil can never be eliminated by unjust and tyrannical federal laws forced through congress by men of the type of Senator Wagner of New York, who knows nothing of the South, has probably never been in the South, and who hates the Southern states in general with a profound and deep-seated hatred.

If Senator Wagner succeeds in forcing through his anti-lynching bill, the southern senators should retaliate by proposing a bill which will place a heavy federal fine on any county in which a racketeering or gang outrage occurs, or in which there is a case of white slavery. This would be just as fair as fining the innocent people of a county because of a lynching in that county.

But we hope and believe that neither an anti-lynching nor an anti-racketeering federal law will be necessary. We believe that by constant effort the decent people of the South and of the North will stamp out both evils.

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GRAND JURY PROBES LYNCHING OF NEGRO

Tipton County Judge Denounces Death of Negro

8-16-37

FIND BODY UNDER BRIDGE

Sweeping Investigation Ordered Seven Hours After Mutilated Form of Albert Gooden Located Near Mason

By JOHN MONTGOMERY
Staff Correspondent

COVINGTON, Tenn., Aug. 17.—Seven hours after deputy sheriffs discovered the bullet-riddled and mutilated body of Albert Gooden, 35, negro slayer of a Mason peace officer, a packed courtroom in the Tipton County Courthouse today heard Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist denounce the lynching as "one of the most horrible and disgraceful crimes of Tipton County," as he ordered a sweeping grand jury investigation.

The mud and blood covered body of the negro was found at 3 o'clock this morning in a narrow drainage ditch about 12 miles southeast of here, half way between Mason and Atoka. He had been hanged with a frayed plow line from a steel road bridge, but the line had broken and it was evident that death was caused by the score or more of bullet wounds.

Seized By Masked Men

Gooden was kidnaped at 9:15 o'clock last night near Brighton by six men, their faces bound in handkerchiefs, who held up Sheriff W. J. Vaughan in whose car the negro was being returned to the Covington jail.

Judge Baptist ordered the grand jury to make a sweeping and unprejudiced investigation into the act, citing in detail the state law which holds a sheriff responsible for the safety of his prisoner. The lynching was Tipton County's first.

"Everyone participating, aiding or abetting the crime is guilty of murder in the first degree," the judge declared. "And it is the duty of the grand jury to make not a perfunctory, but a full, complete and searching investigation and go to the bottom of this thing.

"If there is any man on the grand jury who feels that he cannot do this he should notify the court of that fact."

Three Persons Heard

Attorney General George C. Watkins immediately went before the grand jury and was closeted with them for half an hour. When he reappeared he said:

"The grand jury has already begun an investigation of the matter and some of the evidence has been submitted. It is convened indefinitely to complete this inquiry."

The first three persons to appear before the jury this afternoon were John Winford, Covington business man who was with Sheriff Vaughan when the negro was taken last night; D. B. Rice, former sheriff and now jailer here, and J. T. Scott, former sheriff, who was with deputies when the body was found.

Mr. Rice, as jailer, showed a group of men through the jail here the night of July 18 when the negro was sought shortly after the sheriff had taken the prisoner to Memphis for safe keeping.

Sheriff Vaughan announced tonight he would make a request tomorrow that he be called before the grand jury to explain what happened and to aid in clearing up the matter.

"I am anxious to do all I can in settling the case properly," he said.

Sheriff's Duties Cited

The section of the code quoted by Judge Baptist concerns the duties of the sheriff. It reads:

"Any sheriff who, either negligently or wilfully or by want of proper diligence, firmness, and promptness in the use of all the powers with which he is invested by law, allows a prisoner to be taken from the jail of his county, or to be taken from his custody, and put to death by violence, shall be guilty of a high misdemeanor in office, and, upon indictment therefor and convicted thereof, shall be fined at the discretion of the court, and shall also, by the judgment of the court, forfeit his office, and be declared forever incapable of holding any office of trust or profit in this state."

The discovery of the body of the chocolate colored, slender negro climaxed a six-hour search for the slayer and the six masked men that occupied the attention of all deputies and peace officers in Tipton County, and kept a large part of Covington citizenry awake until dawn. The discoverers, Chief Deputy V. W. Pickens and Mr. Scott, were making a routine search of all roads in the vicinity of the kidnaping, when they noticed a pistol lying on the timbers of a bridge they were crossing.

Pistol Found First

Upon alighting they discovered the pistol to be that of Sheriff Vaughan. All six cartridges had been fired.

"We saw that the bridge was literally covered with exploded pistol and rifle shells," Mr. Scott said. "We began looking around with a flashlight and there below the bridge was the body of the negro."

The body lay face down in the ditch, the head in the water. Around the neck was knotted a double amateurish noose, connected to a line that passed around the hands, still bound with Sheriff Vaughan's handcuffs.

From a metal bridge grider hung the other end of the rope, its end frayed as though snapped.

Body Bullet-Riddled

The negro's body was literally punched with bullet holes, with no space as large as a man's hand unscathed. Deep gashes marked the head and face. He was dressed in flimsy jeans and singlet. He wore but one shoe, having lost one in his struggles when kidnaped.

Sheriff Vaughan ordered the body removed to the floor of the bridge where it lay, guarded by him, until a negro undertaker could be summoned from Covington. Later in the day he released it to the brother of the dead negro, an undertaker at Mason.

The site of the lynching is in the center of a large negro population, although many white farmers of comfortable means cultivate the fertile bottom lands.

Secrecy Guarded Trip

Seven hours before Sheriff Vaughan found the body at the bridge, he had removed Gooden from the jail at Memphis where he had taken him July 18 for safe keeping. He had tried to maintain an air of informal secrecy by going to Memphis without deputies, accompanied only by Mr. Winford, a local haberdasher, who until the sheriff had driven to the jail did not know of the plans to transport the prisoner.

With the negro in the front seat, handcuffed, and the sheriff driving, the trio started home. As they rode along Mr. Vaughan sought to make the negro confess to the shooting of the Mason marshal, Chester Doyle, but Gooden refused to commit himself.

About a mile south of Brighton, which is only a few miles from the Shelby County line, a car, in which six men were riding, overhauled them and forced them to the side of the road. The negro first sensed what had happened.

"Them's Mason men," he cried.

One man leaped from the moving car and thrust a pistol in the sheriff's face, disarming the officer and ordering him to keep his hands in the air. Another opened the door and ordered Mr. Winford to step out. The rest went over to the other side and began to drag the negro from the car.

Sheriff Vaughan pleaded with the men to "let the law take its course." He pointed out that Gooden was sure to be indicted the next day—when he appeared before the grand jury, the object of his return to Covington — and that the evidence against him would mean his execution.

"To hell with that," one of them exclaimed. "This is the ——— we want."

While Mr. Winford was being searched by one of the men, and another was holding off Mr. Vaughan with a pistol, the remainder fought with Gooden, dragging him, screaming and tussling, to the other car. At one point the negro, by suddenly straightening himself, knocked one of the men down and nearly escaped, but he was quieted by a blow with the butt of a pistol.

License Torn Off

The men then drove off in the direction of Brighton, first ordering the sheriff, under pain of being fired upon, to give them a chance for a getaway.

"As they drove off I tried to read their license plate," Mr. Vaughan said. "But they had torn it off. I could not identify any of the men; none of their voices were familiar."

The two men then raced to Covington where deputies were summoned and a routine search instituted.

Gooden was charged with killing the Mason marshal when sheriff's officers raided a craps game July 17, and the negro is said to have resented Mr. Doyle's treatment of a negro woman. He had twice been indicted for liquor violations and has a generally bad reputation around Mason.

State Officials Deplore Lynching

NASHVILLE, Aug. 17.—(AP)—State officials deplored today the lynching near Covington of Albert Gooden, 35-year-old negro. Governor Browning, who is on a vacation in Minnesota, was not available for comment.

His secretary, David V. Mankin, said: "Of course, any lynching, any time, anywhere, is unfortunate."

Atty. Gen. Roy H. Beeler commented: "I'm sorry it happened, in the State of Tennessee or anywhere else. The law should always be permitted to take its course.

Seventh Lynching In South In 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Aug. 17.—(AP)—The lynching today of a 35-year-old negro near Covington, Tenn., brought to seven the number of lives taken by mobs in the South in 1937.

It was the first for Tennessee, information at the Tuskegee Institute showed.

Other lynchings, all of negroes, listed by the Tuskegee department, were Florida, two; Mississippi, two; Alabama, one, and Georgia, one.

Orders Lynch Probe

Judge R. B. Baptist

LYNCHING PROBE JURY FAILS TO OBTAIN CLUE

Tipton Countians Recess Without Report

10 WITNESSES TESTIFY

Heard Shots, Saw Nothing, Is Trend of Answers in Investigation of Mason Negro's Killing

Special to The Commercial Appeal

COVINGTON, Tenn., Aug. 18.—Without making a report, the Tipton County Grand Jury recessed this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock until Sept. 1 after hearing 10 witnesses in connection with an investigation into the lynching early yesterday morning of Albert Gooden, 35-year-old negro accused of the slaying July 17 of Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason.

The jury, ordered into special session by Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist seven hours after the negro's bullet-riddled body was found in a drainage ditch 12 miles southeast of here, heard seven more witnesses today after three testified yesterday.

Decries Action

Judge Baptist told the jury yesterday the lynching was "one of the most horrible and disgraceful crimes of Tipton County" as he ordered a sweeping inquiry. The negro was taken from Sheriff W. J. Vaughan at 9:15 o'clock Monday night near Brighton by six masked men as he was being returned to Covington from the Shelby County jail at Memphis.

Several of the witnesses today said they "heard shots" but "saw nothing," leaving the jury as much in the dark as Sheriff Vaughan, who said he was unable to recognize any of the men who forced his car from the Jeff Davis Highway and took his prisoner.

The sheriff asked last night that he be allowed to appear before the jury, but he was not called today. Shortly after the jury recessed, he and Attorney General G. C. Watkins and Former Sheriff J. T. Scott went to the scene of the lynching to continue the probe.

Continue Inquiry

The jurors likely will continue their investigation when they reconvene, as the regular session of court does not meet again until November.

Appearing were Deputy William Hoffman of Brighton, assistant jailer here the night of July 18 when a mob sought to get the negro; Squire John M. Marshall of Mason, Kirk Vandergrif, night marshal of Mason; Sidney Murphy of Burleson, six miles south of Covington; and A. B. Cothran, his son, Ellis Cothran, and Robert Holden, who all live near the scene of the lynching.

Sheriff Vaughan said he could shed no light on the identities of the men who, he said, wore handkerchiefs over their faces. He said he thought the men were from the Mason locality because the terror-stricken negro shouted "them's Mason fellers."

Guilty of Murder

Judge Baptist told the Grand Jury that "every one participating, aiding or abetting" in the lynching is guilty of murder in the first degree," and he warned them against a "perfunctory" inquiry.

The lynching was Tipton County's first since the Civil War.

Members of the Grand Jury, in informal discussion at noon, said the investigation had not produced "a worthwhile lead."

Grand Jurors Baffled Over Lynching Case

Group Delays Report On Mob Slaying Of Tennessee Negro

COVINGTON, Tenn., Aug. 18.—(AP)—Witnesses who "heard shots," but "saw nothing" talked to the Tipton County Grand Jury today, leaving the jurors as much in the dark as ever concerning the identities of six masked men who strung up a bullet-riddled body with a frayed plow line early yesterday.

The grand jury adjourned at 4:30 p.m. until September 1, without making a report of its investigation into the lynching. Presumably the investigation will be continued then as the regular session of the body is not scheduled until November.

Immediately following adjournment District Attorney General George C Watkins, Sheriff W. J. Vaughan and former Sheriff J. T. Scott went to the scene of the lynching. They did not announce the purpose of the move.

Laughing at Sheriff W. J. Vaughan's plea that the courts be allowed to decide the prisoner's fate, the mobsmen, shouting "to hell with the law," snatched Albert Gooden, 35, negro, from the sheriff's custody, pierced his body with 30 bullet holes and left it suspended from a bridge 12 miles southeast of here.

The sheriff was removing the negro from a Memphis, Tenn., jail to Covington to face a murder charge for the slaying of City Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason, Tenn., July 17. The prisoner was incarcerated at Memphis immediately after his arrest when a mob formed at Covington.

Sheriff Vaughan was called before the jury. He told newsmen he could shed no light on the identities of the men, who, he said, wore handkerchiefs over their faces. He said he thought the men were from the Mason locality because the terror-stricken negro shouted "them's Mason fellers," when the prisoner saw them crowd the sheriff's car off the highway pavement near Brighton.

Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist told the grand jury that "every one participating, aiding or abetting in the lynching is guilty of murder in the first degree," and warned them against a "perfunctory" inquiry.

The lynching was Tipton County's first since the Civil War between the States.

Members of the grand jury told newsmen in informal discussion at noon the investigation had not produced "a worthwhile lead."

"We're checking every little tip we can get," one juror said, "but the witnesses we questioned said they knew nothing about the lynching."

Let Not Delay Aid Lynchers

It is to be regretted that the Tipton County Grand Jury found it necessary to adjourn until Sept. 1 instead of completing its investigation of the lynching of a negro accused of slaying Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason.

Suspicion of indifference often accompanies delay. Tipton has a blot on its escutcheon that requires immediate effacement. A long record for law enforcement has been shattered by six hot-heads who not only defied a sheriff but actually overpowered him and took his prisoner and arms.

We do not urge undue haste—the deplorable results of improperly considered action are brutally dramatized by the lynching itself. We do believe, however, that the Grand Jury of Tipton County could well afford to stay in session to pursue its investigation. The only hope now is that the intervening weeks will not lessen its zeal to seek out the culprits who dared to seize the majesty of the law with their own gruesome hands.

"We didn't find any whisky, not even an empty bottle," Mr. Pickens said upon his return. "We searched the place and also adjoining buildings."

LYNCH JURY ADJOURNS WITHOUT FINDING CLUE

Attorney General Says Case Will Not Be Closed

SESSION SET FOR OCTOBER

Investigators At Covington Apparently Baffled Over Death Of Negro Aug. 16 — Seized By Six Men

By MALCOLM ADAMS
Staff Correspondent

COVINGTON, Tenn., Sept. 2.—Apparently baffled in its investigation of the kidnaping and lynching of a negro accused of slaying a Mason peace officer, the Tipton County Grand Jury adjourned today until Oct. 1, without making a report to Circuit Judge R. B. Baptist.

Although no mention of the lynching was made by the grand jury, Atty. Gen. George C. Watkins immediately announced that the case was not closed and that the jury will resume its inquiry next month.

Courthouse Packed

"If our investigation uncovers witnesses who may be able to throw light on the matter, they will be called before the grand jury when it reconvenes," General Watkins said.

The courthouse was packed with spectators gathered for the trial of a negro on a criminal assault charge as Squire J. Lauderdale Richardson, grand jury foreman, made a report on several other matters considered during a two-day session.

"Gentlemen, you are excused until Oct. 1 at 9 o'clock in the morning," Judge Baptist said, without mentioning the lynching matter.

Special Probe Term

After adjournment of court at noon, Judge Baptist said that the lynching inquiry was not closed. Mr. Watkins pointed out that the next regular grand jury session is scheduled in November, and that the Oct. 1 session will be for the purpose of continuing the lynching probe.

Six men seized Albert Gooden, negro, accused of killing Marshal Chester Doyle of Mason, the night of Aug. 16. The suspect was taken from Sheriff W. J. (Will) Vaughan, who was returning him from Memphis, where he had been taken when a Mason group visited the jail in search of the negro on July 18.

Ten Witnesses Heard

Ten witnesses were heard by the grand jury during the two-day session. Bill Bone, carpenter, of Stanton, was the only person to appear before the jurors today on the lynching matter, Mr. Bone, who lives in Haywood County, declined to discuss the nature of his testimony.

Covington and Tipton County citizens were not surprised when the grand jury did not report today, since Judge Baptist had warned them against a "perfunctory investigation" of the abduction and slaying of the negro.

Jury Members Named

Members of the grand jury which will resume its inquiry of the lynching Oct. 1 are: J. W. Anderson, farmer; Robert Deverell, farmer; Josh J. Miller, retired farmer; W. B. Kent, farmer; Cdis Jones, farmer-merchant; Jim Hadley, transfer company owner; Will Reid, secretary of the Democratic Executive Committee in Tipton County; Squire R. G. Milton, J. L. Combs, farmer; R. L. Owen, farmer; Paul Shoaf, school principal; Squire G. P. French and Mr. Richardson, the foreman.

Sheriff Vaughan said that he and his deputies will continue their investigation of the lynching. Officials hope that the state's offer of a $5000 reward for the capture and conviction of the lynchers will aid in "breaking" the case.

"I have nothing to hide in this matter," Sheriff Vaughan said. "We will continue our investigation as best we can."

"Was Not Making Raid"

Sheriff Vaughan explained today that he was not making a raid on a gambling dive at Mason when Marshal Doyle was killed.

"I was called to Mason by Mr. Doyle and another officer, Kirk Vandergriff," the sheriff said. "Mr. Vandergriff, the night watchman, told me that Gooden had cursed him on the street.

"Mr. Doyle asked me to go down to a house with him. When we got there we discovered a negro craps game."

After Gooden's arrest on a charge of murder, a mob visited the jail on July 18, and the sheriff hurried the prisoner to Memphis.

Sheriff Vaughan reiterated his statement that other officers and even members of his family did not know he planned to return the negro to Covington from Memphis on the night he was lynched.

Slipped Away Quietly

"I didn't want to arouse any suspicions," he explained. "If I had left with several deputies there might have been something said about it. Instead I slipped away quietly."

The sheriff said he made only one stop between Memphis and the

Texas.

Lynchings-1937

Legal Punishment of Lynchers.

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Texas Rangers Probe Flogging

DALLAS, TEXAS, Oct. 26.—(AP)—Texas rangers were ordered to Dallas today for the second time in recent weeks of labor trouble after the reported abduction and flogging of Edwin Bowen, who said he was a former employe of the Kansas City Ford plant.

Police said Bowen received a broken nose and numerous cuts and bruises when he was abducted by several men, taken to the outskirts of town, and severely beaten with a rubber hose.

In Austin, Gov. James V. Allred backed orders from Albert Sidney Johnston, chairman of the Texas public safety commission, who telephoned immediately after the abduction to order rangers sent here. Allred posted a $250 reward, "for information leading to the arrest and conviction of each person involved in this brutal flogging."

Dallas Police Chief R. L. Jones said he had assigned two of his best men to the case.

Bowen told a Dallas News reporter he formerly worked for the Kansas City plant of the Ford Motor Company, where he was a member of the C. I. O. He said his dues were not paid since August, and he had never been a labor organizer.

He said as he applied for a job here today he was abducted by two cars of men, taken near White Rock Lake, and beaten.

Bowen called police who took him to a hospital. He walked from there to the tourist camp where he was staying.

Gov. Allred sent rangers to Dallas recently during a milliners' strike to preserve order.

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Anti-Lynch Scene Changes

Northern Democrats Now Push For Enactment To Hold Colored Support Taken From Republicans

BY GEORGE MORRIS

WASHINGTON, April 17.—During the past 20 years agitation for an anti-lynching law has amounted to little more than a formal bid for the northern negro vote. With Republicans controlling both branches of Congress by preponderant majorities most of the time, they might have passed almost any kind of anti-lynching law if they had been serious about it.

But the first appearance of a suggestion of a filibuster by opponents caused advocates of the measure to toss the towel in the ring and concede defeat. The battle seldom went beyond the first round before advocates of the bill admitted they were outwinded and the fight gone out of them.

Today the scene has changed completely. Northern Democrats have taken over leadership for enactment of an anti-lynching law. The negroes have shifted party allegiance from Republicans to Democrats, and the Democrats propose to hold them at any cost. The Republicans cannot be said to have become advocates of lynching, but since negroes have become Democrats they have at least adopted a more tolerant attitude toward it.

They might even admit under compulsion that there are provocations in which lynching of negroes would be justified on a wholesale scale, particularly in extreme instances where the negro holds the balance of power and exercises it by voting Democratic.

Direct Provocation Beclouds Essentials

Like any other issue in which the fundamentals are beclouded with hysteria, it is difficult to get away from the fallacy that those who vote for an anti-lynching law oppose lynching, and those who vote against it are in favor of lynching. Like other questions of vast implications, the real issue is lost sight of in favor of incidental provocation.

For example, the lynching of two negroes in Mississippi was stronger argument in favor of an anti-lynching law than the argument against its constitutionality or the decidedly more grave and far-reaching authority of the federal government to usurp the rights of states and assume authority over a specific crime.

Nothing could be more fallacious than to argue if a state, through its constituted authorities, fails to enforce its laws that it then becomes the duty of the federal government to step in and enforce them. Contrary to the usual conception, there are still a few rights reserved to the states. Formerly it was contended that the power of the federal government was limited to authority ceded it by the states, and in the absence of cession of authority, it meant that the authority was especially reserved to the states. An act of Congress was considered inadequate to vest the federal government with authority belonging exclusively to the states.

Present Congress Legislates Lightly

Undoubtedly that relation between the states and the federal government still exists, and no "increasingly enlightened view with reference to the Constitution" on the part of the Supreme Court could possibly escape that obvious fact.

One of the chief criticisms directed against the present Congress is its disposition to pass laws about which there are grave doubts as to their constitutionality. It is contended that it is better to pass a bill which in all probability is unconstitutional and take a chance with Justice Roberts, than pass no bills at all. That is one of the dangers the opposition conceives in the anti-lynching bill.

As a vote-getting bill, where votes determine election results, the anti-lynching measure has a powerful appeal. If the Constitution means what it says, Senator Borah and other constitutional lawyers can satisfy any reasonable person that the proposed act is without a leg to stand on. Passage would mean that Tammany would take over Harlem and numerous other former Republican strongholds would be made permanently Democratic, even though the act were held unconstitutional. The political advantage of passing the bill is obvious.

States Make Their Troubles

Inevitably there will be anti-lynching legislation. The Senate may be able to stop it this session with a filibuster, despite a majority in favor of it. The states brought the trouble upon themselves. Trials are conducted, if there are trials, in communities where lynching occurs, and when there is sufficient provocation to take the law into its hands it can hardly be expected that the community will convict itself.

Perhaps those states that feel that lynching is the only adequate punishment for given crimes could satisfy themselves by enacting laws providing for putting offenders to death by burning at the stake.

In Washington With

GEORGE MORRIS

South and Mobs

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Eastern newspapers, which have taken the trouble to analyze the vote on the anti-lynching bill in the House, have discovered that there are only three high-minded statesmen in the south, Representatives J. B. Carroll Reece and [illegible] Taylor, East Tennessee Republicans, and Maury Maverick, Democrat, of Texas, whose name is sufficiently descriptive. They were the only southerners to vote for passage of the bill.

More analytical minds might have concluded that a bill which could command the support of only two mountain Republicans and a Texas Maverick meant something was wrong with the bill, rather than with the entire southern delegation in the House, with three exceptions, two of whom consistently follow Republican leadership.

UNDER ORDINARY circumstances the disposition would be to suspect that there was something on the side of those who found sufficient reason for opposing the measure. It would have been easier and more logical to have taken that attitude than to clothe Messrs. Reece, Taylor and Maverick with the cloak of greatness and assume they voice the needs of the province to the south. But the commentators do not stop there. Every southern member of the House, they assume, with the three exceptions, favors lynchings. Everyone except Reece, Taylor and Maverick is out of step.

SHOULD THE BILL pass the Senate and receive approval of the president, which it will unless blocked by parliamentary strategy, the situation will be infinitely worse than it is now. That is why southern members opposed its passage in the House.

The south is making progress toward abolishing lynching. Left to its own devices lynching will be eradicated, as it was in the west when laws became adequate to deal with horse and cattle thieves without the necessity for stringing them up or otherwise disposing of them summarily. The only governor on record as indorsing lynching was not from the south, but from California. Today when a governor is known to be determined to prevent lynching and take the necessary steps to punish members of a mob, lynching has already come to an end.

AS A MATTER of fact, lynching had little influence upon those who voted for or against the bill in the House. Its advocates were composed largely of persons who have a conviction that the south is not capable of governing itself and relish an opportunity to register support of a return to carpetbag days with all its implications. Its opponents were those who resent intrusion of the federal government into matters belonging exclusively to the states.

The north was not sufficiently agitated over the Lindbergh kidnaping to abandon all restraint and go as far with legislation as it proposes to do with lynching. The "Lindbergh law" gives the federal government authority only when a person is kidnaped in one state and carried to another. Under the "Lindbergh law," the federal government would not have jurisdiction in a repetition of the Lindbergh kidnaping. It would be left to the authorities of New Jersey.

PAINS WERE TAKEN to make it clear that the anti-lynching bill was aimed at the south. For example, a person may enter a bank and shoot down and kill three tellers, emerge and be killed by a group of outraged citizens. The federal government would not be authorized to intervene and prosecute those who killed the robber. There is no law requiring the county to indemnify the family of the deceased murderer and robber. Cases of that kind happen more frequently in the north than in the south.

But if a rapist and murderer is captured and taken from officers and lynched, then, under the anti-lynching bill the whole power of the federal government is invoked to prosecute and convict members of the mob. The victim of the perpetrator of the crime is lost sight of entirely.

TO ILLUSTRATE by what might reasonably be a fair example, a child is brutally attacked and murdered. The perpetrator of the crime is arrested. Members of the family seek to avenge the crime against the child by taking the criminal away from officers and killing him. Thereupon the federal law says that the county, in which the parents of the child may be the principal taxpayers, must indemnify the family of the criminal in addition to being prosecuted.

In order to protect their gangsters, the authors of the anti-lynching bill were obliged to leave a loophole through which one could drive the proverbial yoke of oxen. The federal government can intervene only in cases where criminals are taken from the custody of officers. It was necessary to make this restriction to prevent the federal government from taking a hand in gang wars. But it serves to nullify the whole purpose of the proposed law.

It means where danger of mob violence is imminent, authorities simply will not make an arrest and assume responsibility for protection. They will save counties from indemnity by avoiding the formality of arrest. Sensible law-enforcing officers will leave the matter to the discretion of mobs and preserve states' rights.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 17, 1937

Anti-Lynch Bill

Advocates of the nefarious anti-lynching bill contend that its passage would serve as a protection to defendants, particularly to negro defendants in the South.

But would it?

Should the bill which passed the house this week finally become law, any officer who permits a prisoner to escape his custody and be injured by a mob would be subject to a fine of $5,000 and imprisonment for a term of from five to 25 years

...ty in which the prisoner was seized or put to death would have to pay the family of the deceased a sum ranging from $2,000 to $5,000.

Considering the chance that an officer runs when he makes an arrest in a particularly reprehensible case, what would his attitude be? Would he run the risk and make the arrest, or would he simply fail to take the prisoner into official custody and thereby permit the mob to wreak its vengeance without endangering himself?

In other words, would the officer decide the matter was of not sufficient concern to him to cause him to run the risk of paying a $5,000 fine and serving 25 years in jail, and fail to act, or would he make the arrest, take all the chances mentioned above and still have to run the risk of killing neighbors and being killed?

Whoever thought of the idea of a federal anti-lynching bill not only had no regard for the constitutional rights of the states of the union, but had mighty little knowledge of human nature!

Wilson, N. C., Times
April 2, 1937

RACE QUESTION COMES UP AGAIN

Some Southerners Are Fearful of Federal Aid Future As There Is Possibility Race Issue May Rise In Schools; Anti-Lynching Fight Soon.

Washington, April 2.—The race question, which has been to the forefront in the house of representatives in connection with anti-lynching bills which will come to a vote on the floor not later than April 12, is also expected to be indirectly at issue if and when the house ever votes on the bill providing grants to states for aid in conducting their public schools on which the house committee on education is now holding hearings.

Clyde A. Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction for North Carolina, was scheduled to testify yesterday, but his testimony was postponed until today because of a large array of other witnesses, including C. E. Huston a Washington negro who is legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

North Carolina is particularly interested in the proposed bill because the unusually high proportion of children in the state would cause it to benefit to a considerably larger extent that would be the case were the apportionment made on the basis of the entire population instead of on the basis of the population of children of school age. North Carolina, with approximately one-fortieth of the country's population, would receive more than one-thirtieth of the fund; and while North Carolina ranks twelfth in population, its $3,154,615 out of the initial $100,000,000 for the first year would be the eighth largest allotment.

Throughout the hearings before the education committee, which began on Monday, there have been more negroes than whites in attendance, as the negroes expect the bill to result in substantial gains for them in southern states.

Although Mr. Erwin and Jule B. Warren, secretary of the North Carolina Education Association who is here with him, warmly approved the bill, the third member of the party, Lloyd Griffin, secretary of the North Carolina School Commission, has not committed himself either way and is regarded as luke-warm toward the proposition.

Columbia, S. C. State
April 19, 1937

Again a "Solid South"—Responsibility for Federal Anti-Lynching Legislation.

Who said the "Solid South" is but a tradition; a condition mythical!

Whoever he is, there is much, very much in his assertion. Call the roll on the once honored principle of the Democratic party, "tariff for revenue only," and whence now would come the supporting responses? To many Southern congressmen it would be something new, which they had not "digested." But many who understand it would be impelled to vote for protection; protection sugar-coated with the prefix "reasonable"—for some of their influential constituents "need" protection other sections are furnishing the fighters against high tariffs.

Call the roll on the question of states' rights on almost any imaginable issue but one, and the South would be found "scattering" in support. If the issue should be the sovereignty of the states on one side, and the surrender of that sovereignty in exchange for, say, $100,000,000, we greatly fear the noble phalanx at Washington representing the South—we do not claim they would be misrepresenting the South—would vote to "take the dough." Yet we believe that in days of old when Southern knights were bold—in the days long before the popular primaries—Southern statesmen not only had convictions on this issue but were ready to make any sacrifice to support those convictions.

Times have changed and Southerners have changed with them. But on one, and only one issue, is the South changeless. On one question do the representatives of the South vote with rock-like solidness.

When the roll was called in the house of representatives last week on the bill giving federal courts jurisdiction in cases of lynching, not one Southerner faltered in his sacred obligation to uphold the integrity of the sovereign states. On that one issue they are gloriously "solid for the constitution."

Speakers from the South charged Northern and Western Democrats with attacking the stronghold of their party; attacking the fortress where the spirit of the party was kept alive during the long years of political adversity. True, quite true. People are forgetful. Even Southern congressmen have forgotten that a supreme court, many of them have turned against, saved the South from that which would have been a thousand times worse than federal jurisdiction over lynching cases.

Again speakers cried: "Give the South a chance to clean before her own doorstep!" And that cry, per se, is certainly reasonable. But the reason that it now fails to be heeded is that Southerners have been crying to Southerners for a half century to do this very thing, and that in that long span of years not more than three candidates for governors or three candidates for congress in the "deep South" have gone upon the stump, made an issue of the crime against civilization, and denounced lynching and lynchers.

Right there is the trouble, gentlemen of the South. By side-stepping, pussy-footing, you, as leaders, have condoned that which you should have boldly condemned. Did any congressman—senator or representative—ever support The State's campaign against lynching, a campaign begun the day the paper was founded? When forty-one years ago a mass meeting denounced The State, and burned in effigy its editor, for denouncing an atrocious mob-murder, did any congressman give the then struggling newspaper one word of support or comfort? The answers are emphatically, "No."

The fact is, gentlemen, the fight against lynching has been persistently conducted in the South, in season and out of season, by a few, a very few, newspapers. One South Carolina governor, D. C. Heyward, made a valiant, open fight against the crime. One or two other governors made a stand against it. But although it was apparent that a national sentiment was rising in opposition, despite the decrease in lynching brought about by the public sentiment created by the press, congressmen, candidates for reelection, remained silent on the issue; they gave their people no warning.

If the South be "humiliated," as congressmen now declare, we charge them and their predecessors in office with responsibility by their long maintained failure to fight with real militancy for law and order.

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW PETITION IS VICTORIOUS

Bill to Come Up On Floor of House April 12

(Special to The Amsterdam News.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 31.—The securing of the [illegible]t of the 218 signatures to Congressman Joseph Gavagan's discharge Petition No. 5 on his anti-lyinching bill here, Monday, has assured the taking of a vote on the bill almost immediately.

Presentation of the signed petition brings the bill before the House for limited debate and a mandatory vote on April 12.

The completion of the petition, hailed as a great victory by supporters of the bill, was also seen as a knockout blow to the recent desperate efforts of Congressman Clayton W. Sum[illegible] Democrat of the House Judiciary Committee, to block prompt and open consideration of the bill by announcing his committee would hold hearings on anti-lynching bills this week.

Texan, Mitchell Defeated.

Chairman Hatton's move, which also brought Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, only Negro congressman, into an unfavorable light because of the latter's support of it, was characterized, when it was revealed, as a deliberate attempt to prevent the legislation from coming up on the floor of the House at this session. The filing of the petition, however, forces the bill out on the floor regardless of hearings, according to Walter White, secretary National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who is here.

Although the names of congressmen who signed the petition were not available, organizations actively engaged in support of the anti-lynching movement reported that a tremendous amount of volunteer work in visiting and interviewing congressman and their secretaries and in checking up daily on the progress of signatures on the Gavagan petition had been done.

Among those most actively engaged getting signatures and "jacking up" congressmen were Mrs. Roberta Hastie, mother of the newly-confirmed federal judge of the Virgin Islands, William H. Hastie; Mrs. Gertrude Stone, member of the executive committee of the District of Columbia branch of the N. A. A. C. P.; Mrs Dorothy Bristol, wife of a prominent Camden, N. J., pastor; Miss Marjorie Penney, executive secretary, Young People's Fellowship, Philadelphia, and Miss Elizabeth Eastman, Washington correspondent of the national board of the Y. W. C. A.

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Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
April 13, 1937

Hancock Only Tar Heel Voting To Take Up Anti-Lynching Bill

By WALTER BROWN
(From The Journal's Washington Bureau)

Washington, April 12.—With the exception of Representative Frank Hancock, all members of the North Carolina House delegation today voted a loud "no" on the motion to discharge the rules committee and take up the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

The motion carried by a vote of 281 to 108.

There was one other Southern Democrat besides Hancock who voted to discharge the committee. He was Representative Maury Maverick of Texas.

Although favoring federal anti-lynching legislation, Hancock will vote against the Gavagan bill. Maverick will go the whole hog and support the measure when it comes up for consideration tomorrow.

Hancock said he would support the anti-lynching bill sponsored by Representauve Arthur Mitchell, Negro Democrat from Illinois. The only difference between the Mitchell and Gavagan bills is that the former places the burden of proof of violation on the government, while the latter forces the county officer in custody of a person lynched to prove he was diligent in his duties.

Officers found guilty of negligence are subject to heavy fines and imprisonment and counties in which lynchings take place must pay between $2,000 and $10,000 to the family of the deceased.

The Gavagan bill is expected to pass the House tomorrow by as large majority as the vote today to discharge the committee.

Any effort to pass the bill in the Senate will be met by a well-organized Southern filibuster. Senator Josiah W. Bailey is among those who will help speak to death any effort to pass the legislation.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 18, 1937

Anti-Lynch Bill Passed.

THE HOUSE PASSED by a vote of 276 to 119 and sent to the Senate Thursday night an anti-lynching bill introduced by Representative Gavagan, New York Democrat. The vote came after six hours of heated debate Thursday, which followed general argument on previous days.

Southern representatives generally, including those from North Carolina and South Carolina, put up a gallant fight against the measure but the opposition was overridden by more than the two-to-one vote which had been forecast.

The measure authorizes the Federal government agencies to intervene in mob crimes and prosecute the participants in the United States courts, whose juries are drawn from all over half a State or a third of a State and are not supposed to be subject to the influences of local sympathies for the members of the mob as juries drawn from the county where a lynching occurs and where the public is liable to be inflamed.

Such have been the arguments of advocates of a Federal anti-lynching law, together with the argument that lynchings are a blot and a disgrace upon the whole United States and not one county or State alone, and therefore the Federal government should have power to deal with the perpetrators. It was pointed out that the States will not or cannot—in many instances—bring members of lynching mobs to justice, and it was contended that therefore it is up to the Federal government.

On the other hand, opponents stressed the argument that such a law would invade States' rights and that Federal courts and authorities would not prove more effective in curbing lynchings than State and county courts and authorities, because the personnel of Federal enforcement must consist of citizens of the same State in each instance as the personnel of Federal juries and courts and law enforcement officers.

The Gavagan measure, which is the first of its kind to pass either house since 1922, would subject an officer who permits a prisoner to be taken from his custody and killed or injured, to a fine up to $5,000 and imprisonment up to five years. Mob participants would be subject to from 5 to 25 years imprisonment.

Republicans generally joined northern Democrats in supporting the House bill.

Senator Borah meanwhile issued a statement condemning what he called an "effort to force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

House passage of the Gavagan bill by a two-to-one vote was predicted Thursday morning by Speaker Bankhead and Majority Leader Rayburn, both of whom expressed opposition to the measure, taking the same position as other southern Democrats opposed to the bill, that it is an unconstitutional invasion of the rights of the States.

Bankhead expressed the belief that the Senate would pass the measure if it came up for a vote in that branch.

The galleries were filled during the warm debate of the measure in the House, the spectators including many negroes.

Thursday there was talk of a filibuster to prevent a vote that day, but leaders asserted they would keep the House in session until it voted.

GOVERNOR HUGH WHITE of Mississippi notified Chairman H. W. Sumners of the national House judiciary committee Wednesday that he had requested court officials to make a full investigation of the torturing and lynching of two negroes in that state Tuesday.

The double lynching occurred while the lower house of Congress was debating the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, and while the Governor was telling the Farm Chemurgic conference in Jackson that he was "justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in 15 months."

LYNCHERS BURN VICTIM.

THE 218 HOUSE MEMBERS who had signed the petition to recall the Gavagan anti-lynching bill from the judiciary committee, and bring it to the floor for consideration, overran the opposition Monday in obtaining favorable action to force debate on the measure.

Consideration of similar bills had been denied for 15 years by the expedient of keeping them in committee. Ten days ago the anti-lynching bill introduced by the negro congressman from Chicago, Representative Mitchell, was killed by the committee.

Monday the House voted 281 to 180 to consider the bill introduced by Representative Gavagan, New York City's Harlem district congressman.

All the representatives from North Carolina except Frank W. Hancock voted against bringing up the measure for consideration, as did all South Carolina representatives. Hancock said he would vote against the bill, although he voted to bring it to the House floor.

Near Duck Hill, Miss., Tuesday afternoon two negroes were tortured and lynched by a mob of more than 100 white men within two hours after they had pleaded innocent in Montgomery county circuit court to a charge of murdering a white man. A third negro suspected of complicity was whipped severly and run out of the county, narrowly escaping the fate of the other two.

The two negroes were taken from Sheriff Wright and two deputies as they were being led from the court house to be returned to the jail to await trial Thursday. Handcuffed, the prisoners were placed in a waiting school bus, into which members of the mob piled while others followed in automobiles.

The caravan sped to the neighborhood where the white man had been killed. The negroes were taken to a wooded spot, stripped to the waist, chained to two trees. One was seared on the bare flesh with the flames of a blow torch while they were commanded to tell what they knew of the murder. Both were said to have confessed to the mob as the torch was used.

Dispatches from Berlin the same day said the entire German press appeared with banner lines atop "Horrible Details of the Negro Lynchings" in Mississippi.

Officially sponsored comment on the lynchings of two negroes by a Duck Hill mob of white men contrasted them with "humane German racial laws," but refrained from direct attacks on the United States.

German readers were told that "an outcry of disgust has swept the American public."

Huntsville, Ala., Times
April 16, 1937

The Anti-Lynch Bill

It is profoundly disturbing that the House should have passed, and by such a large majority, the anti-lynching bill last night.

It clearly has its origin in political consideration, for it is fathered and has been pressed by a Tammany Democrat, the majority of whose constitutents are negroes.

It was supported in the main by Northern and Eastern Democrats, who seek to forever wean the negro from the Republican party by their advocacy of it.

It is aimed directly at the South, despite the fact it has made strides in recent years in building up public sentiment against the horrible crime of lynching.

Where the negro used to be fair game for a "necktie party", on almost any pretext, he has been given increased protection in most states, and mob action is becoming more and more a thing of the past.

Lynching has decreased 5,000 per cent in the last 40 years.

Passage of such an extreme and unwarranted bill as the Gavagan measure would cause unbounded resentment and ill feeling in the South.

It would punish both the innocent and guilty in a county in which a lynching took place.

It would hamper local law enforcement, and throw upon the state the burden and expense of calling out the militia upon almost every occasion, when a crime of a violent nature, involving a negro, is committed.

In fact, it has been argued that it would even give the Federal government the power to prosecute a governor, if he failed to call out the state guard, in case of a lynching.

Lynching is indefensible, but it is not more so than this radical and unjust bill, which invades the rights and powers of the states, and threatens to make them cringe before the federal government.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
April 15, 1937

Brown Charges Federal Bill to Attempt Lynching Control Is Fop to North Negro Vote

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following address by Congressman Paul Brown covers the anti-lynching law proposed in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, we are concerned here with a proposition that the Federal Government be called upon to supervise the execution and administration of certain state criminal laws. The proposition is based on the promise that the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution empowers the United States Government to guarantee to the citizens of the several states "the equal protection of the law". Sponsors of the measure contend that this equal protection clause is sufficient to cover the purposes of the bill and that should it become law, its constitutionality would be upheld in the courts.

I did not rise, Mr. Speaker, to enter upon a technical discussion of Constitutional law. I do not wish to split hairs with my colleagues who apparently believe the Federal Government has the right to supervise the police forces of the various states, counties and municipalities of this country. I rose to discuss a broad question of policy and the broad underlying principle by which the Federal Government of the United States has contracted with several states of this Union to leave the administration of certain local affairs to the judgment and the will of the people within these local jurisdictions.

The Union was formed for the mutual protection of the states against outside aggression and to assure a peaceful and friendly intercourse among themselves. Definite rights, privileges and responsibilities were reserved to the states as sovereign entities.

PRESERVED TRADITION OF WORD "SOVEREIGN"

Throughout all our history as a united nation we have preserved the tradition of this word "sovereign". The question is "Do we, and shall we, preserve it in fact?" The Century Dictionary defines "sovereign" as "being above all others, or supreme, in character, excellence and importance". If this be true, it is from the sovereign states of this Union that the federal government derives its power as a sovereign nation. And it must be that surrender of rights and responsibilities of the states can be accomplished only by the will of the people of the states.

In the bill we have before us, it is proposed that, by Act of Congress, jurisdiction hitherto reserved exclusively to the states and their subdivisions be usurped by the Federal Government and that the acts of legally appointed state officers be supervised by the Federal Courts.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, classifies a certain type of homicide as lynching. It seems to find this type of murder more reprehensible than other forms of death by inflicted violence and, at least by inference, sets up the premise that certain of the Southern states are unable to prevent its occurrence. It proposes to inflict penalties in the Federal Courts on local officers unable to prevent mob violence against prisoners in their custody and to subject counties in which lynchings may occur to the payment of damages. You cannot enforce the judgment against a county. These provisions, it is argued, will have the effect of increasing the vigilance of local peace officers and have a tendency to create local public sentiment against lynch mobs.

FACTS DO NOT BEAR OUT THE CONTENTION

Now this is all very well, but the facts do not bear out the seeming necessity for Federal intervention of this character. Even if this proposal could be brought into harmony with the underlying spirit of the Constitution, which I believe it cannot, there still remains a record of steady decline in the number of lynchings as a result of steady improvement of state laws and state law enforcement. Addressing the Senate in 1935, Senator Wagner, of New York, co-author of a bill almost identical with the one here under consideration, cited figures which clearly show a marked decline in the number of lynchings in the United States

"There have been 5,071 lynchings in the United States since 1862," said the Senator, "and 280 since 1922". Now simple arithmetic would show that during the 40 years from 1882 to 1922, during which time the country's population doubted, the average was about 120 lynchings a year, but in the 13 years from 1922 to 1935 this average had declined to less than 22 a year. As a matter of fact, the whole trend of the record has been downward since the 1882 date, and in 1934 the number was fifteen, in 1935 there were 20 lynchings and in 1936 only 8. Does not this seem to indicate that state and local law enforcement agencies are handling this problem with effect?

VIRGINIA HANDLED ITS OWN PROBLEM

Some advocates of this measure have called attention to the action of various states in adopting anti-lynching legislation, particularly Virginia who passed an anti-lynching law in 1928, stating there has been no lynching in that state since the passage of the law and that the State of Virginia has suffered no loss by reason of the fact that it, by its own hands, has wiped out this form of lawlessness.

Now this is a very outspoken admission that the states themselves are entirely competent to handle their own police problems, regardless of whether or not there is any Constitutional inhibition to Federal interference. And Virginia is not the only state in which so-called anti-lynching laws exist. But every state has a law against murder; and it doesn't matter whether it comes from the poisoner's vial, the machine gun of the gangster, or the rope of a lynch mob, it is still murder, punishable according to the laws of the state in which it is committed.

The people of my state do not believe in lynching, notwithstanding she has been denounced in severe terms. The courts, the press, the pulpit, and the bar are all opposed to lynching in all of its forms. However, there is not a father in the South who would not infinitely prefer to see his daughter dead than for her to become the victim of a negro rapist, and of course under these circumstances it is not human for parents or relatives to control their feelings, and I feel that parents and relatives in all other sections of the country would have the same feeling for the helpless victims of such brutes.

"THIRD DEGREE" CITED AS BIG PROBLEM

I dare say that no one in this House condones the illegal use of "third degree" methods, for which police of large cities have become notorious. But would anyone here suggest that this particular scandal would be sufficient reason for adoption of Federal legislation to supervise the police of our large Northern cities? The "third degree" is manifestly illegal and a violation of the Constitutional rights of citizens. And it is not perpetrated by an outraged citizenry. It is perpetrated by peace officers themselves!

If this Congress undertakes to set up Federal supervision over state statutes applying to one particular form of crime, then this or succeeding Congresses could pass laws providing for the supervision of any other or all state statutes. This bill, if enacted into law, can easily become an opening wedge to complete domination of state and local laws by the Federal Government.

So we come to the real point of the issue. The record shows that under state jurisdiction lynchings are becoming fewer and further apart, even though the population of this country has been increasing very rapidly. But in the past, a great number of the lynchings which have taken place in Southern states have been of negroes. In the meantime, some of the large cities have developed big negro populations, groups sufficient in size to become political considerations. These groups have been organized by politicians and their votes have become important factors in local, and even national, elections.

THESE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that these facts speak for themselves. The practice of lynching is almost entirely disappearing from existence in this country, and this has been brought about by local law enforcement within the states. The sudden demand for Federal anti-lynching legislation can, therefore, be little more than an emotional appeal to large groups of negro voters in the North. I, for one, know that the Federal Government cannot improve upon the law enforcement practiced by the states and I am confident that this proposed usurpation of states' rights was never contemplated by the Constitution. The real friends of the negroes, when they remain in their place, are still in the South, and every one, with the exception of a few political leaders, will admit this.

Mitchell Votes For Gavagan Bill But Calls It Unconstitutional

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Although after supporting by vote the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill, the Hon. Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois in a speech in the House Of Representatives on Wednesday attacked the Gavagan legislation as a poorly-drawn bill and strongly scored the activities of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Walter White.

Congressman Mitchell said, in part:

"In my judgement, the Gavagan Bill is unconstitutional. I believe that my bill, H. R. 2251, is constitutional and is the best bill out of the 69 or more that have been introduced this session of Congress. This situation places the Republicans in an even more strategic position than otherwise. They, the Republicans, can say to the Negro voters in the next election:

"We killed H. R. 2251 because we wanted to get you a strong bill.

"They will omit to mention, of course, that outstanding legal authorities are almost unanimous in believing that the Gavagan bill is unconstitutional. Bear in mind also that it is quite unlikely that a Supreme Court test of the constitutionality of this legislation will have been secured by the time of the next election. Thus, it seems that from this fracas the Republicans will be the only real winners—and they will be the winners because they cunningly contrived to use the Northern and Border State Democrats who did not realize they were being so used.

"For my part, I believe now, as I have always believed, namely, that some legislation to make lynching a crime against the Federal Government should be enacted. As I have also said many times before, I am firmly of the opinion that my bill is the best bill on the subject; and I believe, moreover, that convictions could be obtained and money-judgements awarded under my bill. I do not believe this would be true under the Gavagan bill unless it is amended in many important respects. Nevertheless, I think a poorly drawn bill on this subject—even the Gavagan bill—is better than no bill at all. Since my bill will not be considered again, I shall work wholeheartedly and unreservedly for the Gavagan bill. I have said this before; I repeat it now.

"In conclusion, I should like to remind the House that no more vicious and false propaganda has ever been directed against a bill in Congress than has been perpetrated against H. R. 2251. All manner of false, vicious and unwarranted statements and releases have been sent out by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. These documents have all been characteristic of the secretary of that organization. I greatly fear that by this false propaganda and this idiotic manoevering they have severely hurt the cause of anti-lynching rather than helped it. I wish I could belive otherwise but I cannot.

"My final word on the subject is this: I sincerely hope that some kind of anti-lynching bill will be passed by this House without further ado."

Elizabethton, Tenn., Star
April 18, 1937

Lynching Bill

Upper East Tennessee has gone on the records of congress as favoring strict measures to halt lynching through the voting of Congressmen B. Carroll Reece and J. Will Taylor on the Gavagan bill which next comes up for debate in the Senate after passage by the house.

Although this bill is by no means the first bill which has proposed Federal intervention in the cases of mob violence with death as the object, this bill has, perhaps, followed on the heels of the most wide-spread denunciation of this type of "punishmnt" for wrongs or charged wrongs.

Although a bloc of Southern senators is vigorously opposing what they call an infringement of state rights, many newspapers of the South have seen fit to denounce lynching and societies have been formed in Dixie to prevent this type of mob rule.

Whether administration leaders will risk a further split in the Democratic ranks by allowing the bill to go through is problematical. Even at the best a rocky road in the senate is seen for the measure which would provide a heavy fine and prison sentence for officials who allow a lynching to take place in their jurisdiction.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
April 17, 1937

Just a few years ago, we were told that we "must" vote the Democratic ticket, else the Republicans would enact an anti-lynching law that would discriminate against the South. Did you notice that the overwhelmingly Democratic House passed an anti-lynching bill by a vote of 227 to 119? Have all the Republicans turned Democrats?

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5673

5673

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL PETITION IS SIGNED BY 202 CONGRESSMEN

SIXTEEN MORE NEEDED

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P. 3-26-37 New York City.

In Desperate Move to Block Gavagan Petition and Delay Action on Bill, Chairman Sumners Publicly Announces He Will Hold Hearings on Anti-Lynching Bill March 31

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Washington, March 26. - Up to last night, a total of 202 congressmen had signed the Gavagan petition No. 5 which will make the anti-lynching bill a special order of business and bring it out on the floor for a limited debate and vote. The petition requires 218 signatures.

In a last desperate move to block the Gavagan petition and to delay prompt consideration of the anti-lynching bill, Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, arose on the floor of the House March 24 and announced personally that his committee would hold hearings on anti-lynching bills on Wednesday, March 31.

If the 218 signatures can be secured before the holding of hearings the bill will come out on the floor regardless of the hearings.

This announcement by Chairman Sumners reverses his previous position, for he has declared repeatedly that he would never hold a hearing on anti-lynching legislation and would do everything he could to block it in this session of Congress.

Chairman Sumners was driven to hold hearings not because he now favors anti-lynching legislation, but because he is hoping by holding hearings and delaying a report to block any consideration of anti-lynching bills in this Congress. Chairman Sumners decided to hold hearings only when it became plain that the Gavagan petition might secure the 218 signatures necessary and thus force the bill out on the floor.

Assisting Chairman Sumners in his effort to block the Gavagan petition is Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, only Negro member of the House. Shortly after the Gavagan petition was introduced, Mr. Mitchell announced that Chairman Sumners had promised him (Mitchell) that hearings would be held on the anti-lynching bill "within the next month." Despite this announcement, congressmen continued to sign the Gavagan petition and on March 24 when the number of signatures had reached 190, Mr. Sumners became desperate and announced the date for a hearing. It is said here that it is unprecedented for the chairman of a committee to make personal announcement on the floor of the date of hearings. Usually such notice is sent through the regular channels and is given to the press in a interview.

Among the signers are members of all parties - Democrats, Republicans, Farmer-Laborites and Progressives.

The feeling among supporters of the anti-lynching bill toward this hasty announcement that hearings will be held is that it is a political trick and, as one member declared: "The committee can hold hearings and then decide to study the proposition until next September."

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star
February 23, 1937

FEDERAL LYNCH LAWS

The *Morning Star* is still sufficiently southern to believe in a modicum of state's rights hence when the matter of federal lynching laws is made, we are reminded of the child labor amendment.

On this score such noted educators as the heads of Harvard and Columbia are listed among the opponents. They argue, and convincingly that such an amendment would wrest control of youth from the home.

These gentlemen and their compatriots might use the same arguments just as convincingly against a federal anti-lynching law.

The northerners who urge it, and the southerners who sometimes applaud, overlook the various offenses that would come under such laws when an attempt is made to define lynching by federal statute.

Perhaps the Richmond *Times-Dispatch*, as quoted by the New York *World Telegram* might be surprised if it followed the sentiments of the following:

"The usually wise Representative HATTON SUMNERS of Texas has argued against a Federal anti-lynching law less convincingly than an Alabama mob has just argued for one.

"Representative SUMNERS says that lynchings have declined under State enforcements from 3.4 victims per million persons in 1892 to about .07 per million in 1936. But last week 50 men broke an Alabama jail, hanged and riddled with bullets an 18-year-old negro and escaped without arrest. It was the first lynching of 1937, that's true, and the first in Alabama for five years. But last year there were nine lynchings, and in the last 50 years there were 5,000. How much the threat of a Federal law agitating Congress for the last four years has had to do with the decrease no one can tell, but doubtless it has been an important factor. What would happen if that threat were removed by shelving the pending WAGNER-VAN NUYS bill?

"More impressive than statistics is the conclusion of an influential Southern paper, The Richmond *Times-Dispatch* that there is 'no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action.'

"We are stamping out kidnaping with the help of Federal G-men, and no State or section considers this a reflection on itself. Why should any State plead for the rights of lynch mobs to besmirch its name?"

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL APPEARS DOOMED AGAIN

House Vote Is Assured, But Chances Are Senate Will Kill Measure

By Ruth Finney
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, April 2.—Although the House probably will soon pass the anti-lynching bill, defeat in the Senate appears equally likely.

Every session of Congress for 20 years has considered anti-lynching legislation without apodting it. Several times the House has voted favorably. In the Senate each time, a vote has been prevented by a filibuster of Southern Democrats.

Two years ago Southern senators filibustered for a week against a motion to take up the Wagner-Costigan bill for a vote. The motion which finally shelved the bill was made by Senator Robinson of Arkansas, Democratic floor leader. It carried 46 to 32. Democrats supporting it 43 to 14 and Republicans opposing it 17 to four.

In the House last year a discharge petition to force the bill from committee for a vote was signed by a sufficient number of members, but it was too late in the session for a vote. It is a similar petition, signed by a majority of the House membership, which now assures a vote this year.

Most of the anti-lynching bills introduced in the past 20 years have provided penalties for officials who fail to protect prisoners in their custody, and other penalties for persons injuring a prisoner. They fix fines for countries in which mob violence occurs.

And they provide that Federal courts shall try any member of a lynching mob if local prosecution is lax or if jurors in the local courts are manifestly opposed to punishing members of mobs.

Senator Borah (R., Id.) believes such legislation would be unconstitutional. Proponents of the legislation argue that a lynched prisoner has been denied due process and equal protection of the law as guaranteed by the Constitution.

In recent years lynchings have averaged 25 a year. Before 1900 the number was 100 or more a year.

Says Mitchell's Note Confuses Mob Bill Work

WASHINGTON

Despite intensive work being done by supporters of the Wagner-Van Nuys Antilynching Bill to get Congressmen to sign the Gavagan petition, No. 5, which will make antilynching legislation a special order of business, Congressman Mitchell (Dem., Ill.) has "gummed up the works," the NAACP charges.

Everything was progressing smoothly on the petition, the association states, the first few days it was on the Speaker's desk until Congressman Mitchell announced that Rep. Hatton W. Sumners (Dem., Texas), chairman of the House judiciary committee, had promised Mitchell that he would hold a hearing "within the next month" on antilynching legislation.

Wrote to Each Congressman

Mr. Mitchell, the association continues, then wrote each Congressman a letter, stating that Chairman Sumners had promised to hold a hearing "in the next few days." This announcement, it is said, greatly confused the Congressmen and caused many to hesitate about signing the Gavagan petition.

They reasoned that if the committee was going to hold a hearing on antilynching legislation, there was no necessity for a petition to get the bill out of the committee's hands.

Of the 218 signatures necessary on the petition, 164 Congressmen have already signed. Supporters of the bill, and especially NAACP officials, believe that Chairman Summers is trying to delay the hearings as long as possible.

HOUSE BODY APPROVES ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

WASHINGTON, April 6.—(AP)—The house judiciary committee approved late today a federal anti-lynching bill introduced by Representative Mitchell, Illinois Democrat. The vote was 17 to 7.

The committee will ask the rules committee for an early date for house consideration.

Going With the Wind

The action of 218 members of the House of Representatives in discharging its committees and forcing a vote on the anti-lynching bill is significant of a changing sentiment in this country toward its occasional reversion to mob law that has shocked the civilized world. It appears certain now that the House will pass the Gavagan bill on April 12 and that only a filibuster will stop the Senate from passing its twin, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill. Both are identical with the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching measure, which fared so ill in former sessions.

Sentiment against a Federal anti-lynching law heretofore has been most vocal in the South, although the lynch evil is not a sectional or even a racial issue. But sentiment in the South appears to be changing. Recently the influential Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch said editorially that there is "no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action." Representative Maverick of Texas, who is supporting the measure, found little feeling in his Southern district against his stand.

Enlightened Southerners know that the mobbing and lynching of Negroes is a survival of carpetbagger days. These days are gone, and with the help of the Federal Government lynch law, too should soon give way to the orderly processes of American justice.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL BACKERS PUSH SENATE

Bitter Fight Expected as Opposition Rallies—Negro Press Active

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Supporters of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill—the first to pass the House in 15 years—began preparations today for a bitter fight for passage of the measure in the Senate.

Filibusters led by reactionary Southerners have killed every previous attempt at favorable action on a Federal anti-lynching bill in the Senate. The Dyer anti-lynching measure, which passed the House in 1922, was soon after filibustered to death in the Senate.

Since 1922 no anti-lynching legislation had passed the House until the Gavagan bill passed yesterday by a vote of 277 to 119.

BORAH OPPOSED

Backing up the position of the reactionary Senate members that a Federal anti-lynching bill is a violation of "states' rights," is Senator Borah, "liberal" Republican, who regards all Federal anti-lynching laws as "unconstitutional."

Commenting on the passage of the Gavagan measure Borah called it an effort to "force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said that although anti-lynching legislation would not stop lynching "it would check lynching and encourage respect for the law."

Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, the House's lone Negro member, whose weaker anti-lynching measure was sidetracked, felt that the passage of the Gavagan bill would "encourage the Negro race."

Meanwhile, scores of Negro workers and progressive organizations, which had deluged the House with telegrams urging passage of the Gavagan bill, prepared to train their fire on the Senate. They hoped by rekindling the enthusiasm and support for the Gavagan measure to unprecedented heights to avoid the fate received by the Dyer bill 15 years ago.

The Gavagan bill, which is supported by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Negro Congress, many scores of Negro newspapers and progressive groups, provides penalties for officers who permit prisoners to be put to death or injured by mob violence. Such officers are subject to a maximum fine of $5,000 and a maximum prison term of from five to twenty-five years.

Mobsters would also be subject to similar punishment while the county in which the lynching occurs would have to pay the victim damages ranging from $2,000 to $5,000.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5674

Tried to Attain Glory at The Expense of His Race, Congressman Charges

PREDICTS PASSAGE OF STRONGER ANTI-LYNCH MEASURE SOON

Charges that Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell was guilty of a deliberate attempt to cater to the leadership of the House and claim for himself belated glory were made by Representative Joseph Gavagan, Democrat of New York, in reply to Mitchell's statement that the Gavagan anti-lynching bill was unconstitutional.

Mitchell was quoted in the press as making the following statement:

"I don't think any lawyer of judgment would say that the Gavagan bill is constitutional. There is no doubt in my mind that it is unwisely drafted legislation."

Irked because of this statement, Gavagan, interviewed in his office in the Tribune shortly after his victory on the floor Wednesday, said:

"The Negroes should be the last to raise the question of constitutionality of anti-lynching legislation. It isn't even the purpose of the House to determine the constitutionality of its proposed measures.

"Who is Mr. Mitchell" he asked, that he can take it upon himself to rule upon the constitutionality of any bill? It has been ruled constitutional by three previous committees of the Judiciary.

"The white people are working like dogs to bring this legislation to a vote, and Mr. Mitchell is practically canvassing and working with the Southern white congressmen to have my bill defeated.

f my petition to discharge my bill rom the committee. Wasn't successful we wouldn't have had this

Sold Out?

ARTHUR W. MITCHELL

mess this morning."

Continuing the representative said:

"Mitchell a Tool"

"Mitchell was used as a tool by the leadership of this House and other Southern members to bring his bill up for hearing and consideration to defeat my bill. After they accomplished their purpose they left Mitchell by himself and didn't even vote for consideration of his bill.

"Sumners, of Texas, whom Mitchell was claiming as his friend submitted a minority committee report stating the legislation wasn't necessary.

"Mitchell's attitude today is the same attitude he has exhibited ever since he has been a member

f the House. He hasn't supported anything. When the Democratic Caucus was held on the subject in the Seventy-fourth Congress Mitchell gave only his physical presence. He never opened his mouth in support of an anti-lynching bill; not even his own bill.

"Mitchell's attempt to attain belated glory and win the favor of the Southern leadership of the House at the expense of his race was defeated," Gavagan declared, "and I predict that my bill will pass the House next Monday by a vote of more than 300."

Mitchell Bill Lost in House By 122 to 256

Bulletin

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell's anti-lynching bill was shelved by a vote of [illegible] 22 in the House Wednesday by a filibuster coalition of Southern Democrats and northern advocates of strong anti-lynching legislation. The House agreed by roll call vote not to consider the measure.

The group of filibusterers had delayed Congressional business on the floor by forcing quorum calls and insisting upon the reading of the journal of the proceedings of the previous day.

By side-tracking the bill of the Illinois Democrat, which was fought by the NAACP, as well as many other colored groups and liberal Congressmen, the House is free to fight out the issue again next week when the more stringent bill of Rrepresentative Joseph Gavagan (D. N. Y.) comes to the floor under a vote-forcing petition signed by the necessary 218 Representatives.

The filibuster was led by Gavagan and Representative Hamilton Fish (R., N. Y.).

Chairman Sumners of the House Judiciary Committee, who called the hearing on the Mitchell bill last Thursday, surprised some observers by sending in a minority report of the committee saying that no anti-lynching bill was necessary. In this report he gave a chart to show that lynching was on the decrease in the South.

Add to Story on Mitchell Bill Lost

Mitchell Bitter

Representative Arthur W. Mitchell took the defeat of his anti-lynching bill with bitterness it is felt by many who witnessed the House action. He accused Democrats of joining Republicans in killing the measure.

Mitchell said: "All manner of false, vicious and unwarranted statements and releases were sent out by the NAACP. These documents have all been characteristic of the secretary of that organization. I greatly fear that by this false propaganda and this idiotic maneuvering they havve severely hurt the cause of anti-lynching rather than helped it."

He added, however, that since his bill was defeated he will support the much stronger Gavagan bill when it comes up Monday.

High Point, N. C. Enterprise
April 10, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW SHOULD BE FEDERAL

THE House this week killed the Mitchell anti-lynching bill for the indicated purpose of enacting next week the more drastic Gavagan bill—but it remains to be seen whether the proposal will itself be lynched in specious pounding for States Rights on a matter that is and must be of national concern and action.

President Roosevelt some while back denounced lynching as "collective murder"; it is that and more. "We do not excuse those in high or low, places who condone lynch law," said the President in his vigorous rebuke of a California governor's endorsement of mob ruthlessness in that state.

It is more than a matter of individual state concern when out of 5,000 lynchings in this country since 1882, convictions have obtained in less than three per cent of cases—in other words thousands of murderers under the cloak of mob violence are free today in this land in which freedom is much-vaunted and much-flaunted.

Lynching is not primarily of Southern concern. True, most of the victims hame been in a dozen states; the accompanying table of states with as many as 100 lynchings is revealing:

State	Whites	Negroes	Tot.
Alabama	46	296	342
Arkansas	64	230	294
Florida	25	241	266
Georgia	34	474	508
Kentucky	62	151	213
Louisiana	60	328	388
Mississippi	45	500	545
Missouri	53	63	116
Oklahoma	116	44	160
South Carolina	5	154	159
Tennessee	44	196	240
Texas	143	349	492
Virginia	16	88	104
Total	513	3,314	3,827

Mose of the states have adequate law against such abuse of justice and law; but the states have been lax in their protection of individual liberty and safety in face of mobs, and the mob, as judge, jury and executioner, has made of justice and legal procedure mere mockery. We await with interest, but with little hope, passage of the Gavagan bill.

Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 8, 1937

Post's Inquiry

The Birmingham Post makes the following editorial inquiry:

"The names of democratic congressmen from the 12 southern states are conspicuously absent from the anti-lynching discharge petition which will force a record vote on the Gavagan anti-lynching bill next Monday.

"Not a congressman from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina, Texas or Virginia signed. Tennessee's two republican representatives and Kentucky's one republican were the only exceptions in those two states.

"What are we to infer from the position taken by Alabama's congressmen, Boykin, Hill, Steagall, Hobbs, Starnes, Jarman, Bankhead, Sparkman and Patrick? Does their failure to sign the petition indicate that they will vote against the anti-lynching bill when the roll is called next week?

"We can not believe that any of the above gentlemen favor lynch law. Yet what are we to assume? Is it possible that they believe a majority of their constituents would directly or indirectly sanction mob violence? Or is it a question of little courage? If the latter be the case then ours is a sad state of affairs when such a small minority can wield so large an influence.

"Alabama has had but one lynching in two or three years and we are as proud of that record as any citizen. But there can be no excuse for even one lynching and any congressman who stands in the way of any move which would tend to discourage mob murder selects his own label and his own company.

"Jefferson county, and (many others for that matter, does not need the threat of penalty to make her officials and law enforcement officers more conscious of their duty on the question of mob violence. Her record speaks for itself. For that reason they need have no fear of the Gavagan bill.

"The measure itself may not discourage lynching. That cannot be told without trial. But the shadow of the long arm of the federal government does have a sobering influence and its courts do command respect even among thieves.

"There is no defense for mob rule and equally none for the man who aids and abets, directly or indirectly, its violence."

The Birmingham Post, having no southern background and, apparently little or no Southern understanding or interest, probably WOULD be the last to know why the names of Alabama's congressmen are not attached to the petition to bring up the federal anti-lynching bill.

For that reason, pardon us while we take time out to advise the Birmingham chain newspaper outfit that in The Daily's opinion the reason why the names of Messrs. Boykin, Hill, Steagall, Hobbs, Starnes, Jarman, Bankhead, Sparkman and Patrick are not found among the signers of the petition is that they are MEN, thank God, SOUTHERN MEN and entirely willing to risk either personal safety or political future when necessary to defend the South from such a damnable attack as is being attempted against us under the terms of the nefarious federal anti-lynching bill, which proposes an unwarranted, if not unconstitutional usurpation of the rights of the states to police their own people.

Shades of Oscar Underwood whose brilliant parliamentary tactics once before defeated such a rotten proposal—have we sunk so low in Alabama that a newspaper which bears the name of one of our proud cities should take to task the successors of those earlier illustrious Alabamians because they fail to obey the dictates of a negro congressman from Chicago and the Scripps-Howard chain of so-called newspapers!

Bainbridge, Ga., Post-Searchlight
April 8, 1937

Congressman Hatton Sumner, Texas Democrat, contends that the enaction of a federal anti-lynching law would only irrate rather than help local governments in dealing with the problem. The congressman is right. Lynching is on the decline because people are becoming educated to a respect for law and order. If federal bayonets could not prevent lynching, how would a mere law do it?

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
April 18, 1937

Anti-Lynch Scene Changes

Northern Democrats Now Push For Enactment To Hold Colored Support Taken From Republicans

BY GEORGE MORRIS

WASHINGTON, April 17.—During the past 20 years agitation for an anti-lynching law has amounted to little more than a formal bid for the northern negro vote. With Republicans controlling both branches of Congress by preponderant majorities most of the time, they might have passed almost any kind of anti-lynching law if they had been serious about it.

But the first appearance of a suggestion of a filibuster by opponents caused advocates of the measure to toss the towel in the ring and concede defeat. The battle seldom went beyond the first round before advocates of the bill admitted they were outwinded and the fight gone out of them.

Today the scene has changed completely. Northern Democrats have taken over leadership for enactment of an anti-lynching law. The negroes have shifted party allegiance from Republicans to Democrats, and the Democrats propose to hold them at any cost. The Republicans cannot be said to have become advocates of lynching, but since negroes have become Democrats they have at least adopted a more tolerant attitude toward it.

They might even admit under compulsion that there are provocations in which lynching of negroes would be justified on a wholesale scale, particularly in extreme instances where the negro holds the balance of power and exercises it by voting Democratic.

Direct Provocation Beclouds Essentials

Like any other issue in which the fundamentals are beclouded with hysteria, it is difficult to get away from the fallacy that those who vote for an anti-lynching law oppose lynching, and those who vote against it are in favor of lynching. Like other questions of vast implications, the real issue is lost sight of in favor of incidental provocation.

For example, the lynching of two negroes in Mississippi was stronger argument in favor of an anti-lynching law than the argument against its constitutionality of the decidedly more grave and far-reaching authority of the federal government to usurp the rights of states and assume authority over a specific crime.

Nothing could be more fallacious than to argue if a state, through its constituted authorities, fails to enforce its laws that it then becomes the duty of the federal government to step in and enforce them. Contrary to the usual conception, there are still a few rights reserved to the states. Formerly it was contended that the power of the federal government was limited to authority ceded it by the states, and in the absence of cession of authority, it meant that the authority was especially reserved to the states. An act of Congress was considered inadequate to vest the federal government with authority belonging exclusively to the states.

TAKES ISSUE WITH MORRIS

To The Commercial Appeal:

It is unfortunate that Mr. George Morris' views on lynchings are so muddled.

On April 18, 1937, he says that "during the last [illegible] for an anti-lynching law has amounted [illegible] than a formal bid for the negro vote."

Now, when language like this is used in a local newspaper, and in a community to which I owe some obligations as a citizen, you will pardon me perhaps if I insist on the humble right to protest.

The Institute of Public Opinion recently conducted a poll of the south on sentiment for a federal anti-lynching law, and the result, as published in the Washington Post, disclosed a 65 per cent majority in favor of such a measure. Would Mr. Morris say that these people are motivated by a desire to capture the negro vote? Would he say that this is the motive of the Federal Council of Churches and church organizations, north and south, which have endorsed the same thing? Would he contend that the Richmond Times-Dispatch, and other great newspapers in the south which have openly urged the enactment of the present Gavagan bill, are likewise controlled by a desire to capture the negro vote?

I submit, with all due respect to Mr. Morris, with whom personally I have never had the slightest difficulty, that the time has come for some straight thinking on this subject.

I am opposed to the pending Gavagan federal, anti-lynching bill which has just passed the House. It has grave defects, and would undoubtedly aggravate the situation. I believe, with Hatton Summers, chairman of the House judiciary committee, that the responsibility is up to the state, and the states must assume it. We don't want federal interference with our police powers. That is the beginning of dictatorship—but, and it is an important one, let us not assume that agitation for a federal anti-lynching law is based, in the main, on anything else than the failure of the states to assume their governmental responsibilities. If we ever get a federal law it will be because we refuse to execute the duty which civilized government imposes on us.

I submit the time has come to stop beclouding the issue by blaming everything on the northern politicians, hysteria, etc., and try a little straight thinking. Let's start now. We can be fair, at least, about our responsibility.

HUGH RUSSELL FRASER.
Memphis.

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Chattanooga, Tenn. Times
April 17, 1937

The South and Mob Violence

Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The argument is sometimes made that the enactment of a federal antilynching law would be an affront to the south. Why? The south has had decades in which to break up lynching, and it has not done so. Hence the only hope of achieving that result lies in the trial of local officers who permit lynchings to occur, in the federal courts.

We are pleased to note that many Virginians favor a federal antilynching bill, despite the fact that lynching has been wiped out in the Old Dominion as a consequence of the enactment of a strong state law during Gov. Byrd's administration. A number of leading Virginia papers are supporting federal legislation, including the Norfolk *Virginia-Pilot*, the Petersburg *Progress-Index*, the Bristol *Herald Courier* and the Portsmouth *Star*.

The precise provisions of any federal antilynching bill are debatable, of course. It may be unwise to penalize a county where a lynching occurs with a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000, the money to go to the heirs of the person lynched. It may be best to confine federal action to prosecution of derelict peace officers, and not to attempt prosecution of members of the mob in the federal courts. But some sort of effective federal law, which will call for the federal trial of culprits, if the state authorities fail to act, is, to our way of thinking, essential.

Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Sincere purpose to abate lynchings is almost entirely absent from the present propaganda for a federal antilynching law. Back of that movement—as every literate adult knows—are four elements.

First—The remnant of the old republican party machine seeking desperately to recover the Negro vote in the northern states, through which it ruled the nation from the election of 1868, in which that vote first swung the balance.

Second—The democratic political machines in big cities bidding against the r. o. p. for the same bloc vote.

Third—The communist groups who have sought for more than fifteen years to stir up racial strife north and south.

Fourth—The strangely assorted groups of psychopaths who take a morbid interest in lynchings and in characteristic crimes that lead to lynchings. These groups include many queer fish and epicene neurotics who swim in the stagnant social pools which have collected back of some of the great foundations and other endowments set up by doddering old men and women who had more money than sense.

The latter elements are not motivated at all by any desire to abate lynchings. The heavily financed propaganda against the social order of the south which was manifested in the Scottsboro case in Alabama and in the Herndon case in Atlanta are a dead giveaway as to that. An orderly court trial in the south stirs up the degenerate martyr complexes of these people as much as a lynching.

In view of the south balting that accompanies all the agitation for federal antilynching laws it is incumbent upon southern senators and representatives to make these facts clear upon the floors of the houses of congress, and to demand that any extension of federal police powers be made to cover the gang mobsters of the city as well as the rural mob.

The Baltimore Sun.

It is a melancholy coincidence that while southern representatives in congress were arguing in the house against federal antilynching legislation, a Mississippi mob took two Negroes from county officers at Duck Hill, Miss., and tortured them to death under circumstances as revolting as any which attended the Salem witch burnings. The arguments which the south offers against a federal statute to deal with lynching are highly persuasive on legal and constitutional grounds. It is an unhappy business when Washington undertakes to step in and deal with a purely local evil such as lynching. Those matters are much better left to the localities to deal with and, until the localities do their duty, it may be doubted if they will ever be stopped.

But the south does not come into court with clean hands to argue this case. When southern white men are disposed to flout the law and put Negroes, even guilty Negroes, to the torture with blow torches, southern spokesmen in congress are in poor position to plead the constitutional case against federal antilynching laws. Those who want to advance such pleas ought first to clean their own house.

The first test of the south's willingness to face up to its responsibilities in this matter will come in connection with the Duck Hill outrage. If the decent and enlightened citizens of Mississippi awake to the seriousness of their situation and if they deal with the officers and mobsters in a way to indicate a desire to stamp out lynching, the spokesmen of that state in Washington can again have a claim on the attention of the nation in their opposition to the antilynching bill. Lacking such a manifestation in this and in other similar cases which may occur, the south need not be surprised if its pleas are treated lightly.

The Washington Post.

The latest lynchings in Mississippi are an effective stimulus to the demand for enactment of the Gavagan bill, now under debate in the house. The proposed antilynching law would allow the federal government to take over the case if, after thirty days, the state has not indicted and prosecuted the lynchers. Because of the extraordinary hideousness of the Duck Hill crime, even residents of that community might be expected to approve such intervention.

But sober analysis of the Gavagan measure as it would apply to lynchings generally raises doubt that it would accomplish its purpose. For, in addition to authorizing the federal government to proceed against lynchers and the officers who fail to restrain them, the bill would make any county in which a lynching occurs liable to suit for damages. In spite of its laudable purpose, this coercion of local government by federal action tends to make the proposal distasteful.

The reasoning advanced by Mr. Gavagan and his supporters is that the history of lynching shows local authorities generally unwilling to move against mob murderers, though every state has a law requiring their punishment. Under these circumstances, it is argued, it becomes necessary for the federal government to step in and insure the protection of citizens' lives. The implicit presumption, however, that jurymen in, say, the Duck Hill region will not indict when serving on a state panel, but would when sitting in a federal court seems open to considerable question.

Nor do all states with high Negro populations where lynchings predominate deserve the charge of inaction against the crime. Virginia is one notable exception; there has not been a lynching in Virginia for ten years. This is clearly the result of the fact that public opinion in Virginia has come to demand an end to lynching. And, to an appreciable extent, this same enlightenment is spreading through the south. At least, fewer than ten lynchings were recorded throughout the country last year, as against twenty in 1935.

The solution of the lynching problem seems to lie in this direction rather than in that proposed by the Gavagan bill, which might result in reviving the bitter emotions of reconstruction days. By a bitter irony, too, it is crimes of such extreme beastiality as that reported from Duck Hill which will hasten the reform in public opinion necessary to end them forever.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
April 17, 1937

The Anti-Lynching Bill

Representative Cavagan, Democrat of New York, has pushed through the House of Representatives a bill authorizing the federal government to intervene in mob crimes and to prosecute mobsters and negligent police officers. Any officer from whom a prisoner is taken would be subject to a fine of not more than $5,000 and a prison sentence of not more than five years. Participants in the mob would be subject to from five to 25 years imprisonment. And the county in which the prisoner was seized or put to death would be subject to a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000.

Most of the opposition to the Cavagan bill has been from Southern Democrats. They have argued that the bill is aimed directly at the South, which it undoubtedly is—for nearly all the lynchings are in this region—and that it is an undue invasion of the state's police power. They point out further that Northern Democrats and Republicans are for the bill because their Negro constituents want federal action taken against lynching.

Certainly this newspaper would be for the bill if it were sure that its enactment would put a stop to lynchings and that such enactment would provide the only means for attaining that result. It is not certain that those things are true. Legislating from above without the wholehearted support of the people most affected is seldom wise, and it is difficult to feel any certainty that the effects of passage of the Cavagan bill would be more beneficial than otherwise.

Senator Borah has condemned this "effort to force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional, and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure." Surely there is more than reasonable doubt as to the bill's constitutionality, for police powers are reserved expressly to the states.

Everything feasible should be done to bring about an end of lynchings in this country. Encouraging progress has been made by the states, and while that progress has not been so rapid as most of us would like, it has been fairly constant. In 1936, for example, Alabama had no lynchings. Six times, however, mobs gathered in this state and threatened to lynch Negroes suspected of crimes. In every instance the state took determined action to prevent the lynching. Mississippi had one lynching last year, but three times attempted lynchings were prevented by the state authorities. There were five lynchings in Georgia, and there were also five attempts to lynch which were foiled by the state. There were no lynchings in Virginia, the state being successful in preventing three mobs from reaching the prisoner.

One wonders whether the Virginia law, providing heavy penalties for counties in which lynchings occur—a feature of the Cavagan bill, also—is not responsible for much of the progress in that state in eliminating lynchings.

When states are uniformly successful, or practically so in preventing lynchings, there is undoubtedly a highly favorable reaction among the masses of the people. Certainly a much sounder situation would prevail if lynchings are eliminated by action of the local authorities than when such progress is due solely to federal intervention.

About the only way to prevent enactment of the Cavagan bill is quick action in Mississippi to determine the identity of the recent lynchers and then to punish them adequately for their crime against Mississippi, the South and our whole American civilization. Only in such fashion can the Southern states hope to retain their right to deal with this problem, for if the Cavagan bill fails in the Senate this year, it, or a similar measure, will be passed before very long, unless our Southern states not only prevent most lynchings, but deal out punishment to those who take part in such lynchings as do take place.

Eight of the nine Alabamians in Congress voted against the Cavagan bill. A long fight is faced in the Senate, where there is stronger opposition to the measure.

This newspaper is unable to take a dogmatic position and say that a federal law would or would not be likely to stop lynching. It realizes that the federal government would be more effective than the state in running down the mobsters who this week lynched two Mississippi Negroes. But the Cavagan bill gives the federal government no authority to take steps to prevent lynchings

The states must be the ones to act if lynchings are ever prevented, and they can only be entirely successful when local public opinion is for law and order.

Enlightened public opinion in the South seems largely to center on the idea that lynchings should be eliminated, preferably by the states, but that it is a crime that must be stopped and if action by the federal government is the only way it can be stopped, then action by the federal government is desirable.

Marshall, N. C., News-Record
April 22, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW PASSES HOUSE

In the last week, the lower house of Congress passed an anti-lynching law, the vote being 276 for the measure and 119 against. We notice that southern congressmen generally opposed the measure on the ground that this act would be invading the rights of the states. There is some merit in the arguments produced by opponents of the act, but we believe there is too much "passing the buck" from national to state responsibility and vice versa. Whenever we read of a lynching, we feel that if anything can be done to prevent it, whether by state or nation or both combined, it should be done. It is a disgrace on the name of America that lynchings should ever occur in this enlightened age. Usually the victim is some defenseless negro boy who, though guilty of the charge, is hardly responsible for his mental attitude. At any rate he should have the privilege of a fair court trial. If lynching were outlawed by the federal government as well as the states, people would doubtless be a little more inclined to think before joining a mob for such a rash act as lynching; for there is no doubt but people stand more in fear of federal officers than state or local. Moreover state lines should be obliterated when it comes to crimes of this sort. We favor the federal anti-lynching law.

Monroe, N. C. Journal
April 16, 1937

LYNCHING BILL IS PASSED BY HOUSE

Aimed at South to Make Negro Vote in New York Safe For Tammany

The House overrode bristling southern opposition last night to pass the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. It would authorize the federal government to intervene in mob crimes to punish participants and negligent officers.

After more than six hours' hectic debate, it voted 276 to 119 to approve the measure and sent it to the Senate, where, sponsors agreed, it faced sterner opposition.

Even as the House voted, Senator Borah, Republican of Idaho, issued a statement condemning what he called an "effort to force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional, and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

In general Republicans joined with northern Democrats in supporting the bill.

Holds Officers Liable

The measure, the first of its kind to pass either House since 1922, would subject an officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death to a fine ranging up to $5,000 and to as much as five years in prison.

Likewise, participants would be subject to from five to 25 years' imprisonment.

Asserting the bill was aimed at the South, opponents from this section sought in vain to strike from the bill provisions that would subject counties in which a prisoner was seized or put to death to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. The money would go to a victim's family.

The opponents succeeded once in deleting the sections, only to be reversed by a 232 to 139 vote just before the measure passed.

Describing these provisions as the "heart of the bill," its author, Representative Gavagan, Democrat of New York, who represents a New York City district with a large negro population, told the House the measure would not be "worth the paper it's written on" without them.

Legislation Called Invalid

While much of the debate centered on constitutionality of the legislation such issues as partisan politics, President Roosevelt's court reorganization program and centralization of governmental authority were injected.

Denying the legislation's constitutionality, as did Senator Borah, Chairman Sumners, Democrat, of Texas of the House judiciary committee warned colleagues:

"This bill would give the Federal government power to prosecute a governor if he did not call out the militia in case of a lynching."

Flushing with emotion, he demanded of sponsors:

"Why don't you let us in the South alone and give us a chance to show what we can do about this situation.'

He then cited figures to show that lynchings had declined 5,000 per cent since the peak in 1892.

One of the few Republicans opposing the bill, Representative Hoffman of Michigan, asserted its object was to give the "Democratic party in New York more negro votes."

Voicing similar views, Representative Rankin, Democrat of Mississippi shouted at Gavagan:

Negro Pleads For Bill

"You want to make Harlem safe for Tammany."

A plea for the bill was made by Representative Mitchell, Democrat of Illinois, only negro member of Congress, whose own measure was sidetracked last week. He told colleagues of his own experience with a mob. He said that once when he was teaching in Alabama a mob "marched within three miles of my schoolhouse to lynch me because I had stopped payment on a $20 check obtained from me through fraud.

"The best thing you can do to encourage the negro race is to pass this legislation," he declared.

Although he urged anti-lynch legislation, Representative Robison, Republican of Kentucky, said the Gavagan bill might cause an increase rather than decline in mob crimes.

Pointing out that penalties would apply only after a prisoner was taken from custody, he asked:

"What inducement is there for an officer to take an accused person into custody? He would subject himself to indictment and his county to damages."

Representative Cox, Democrat of Georgia, bitterly accused northern Democrats of turning against the South.

"For more than 100 years the South has kept the Democratic party alive. Now that it has grown fat and powerful, it proposes to turn upon the South and deal it this wicked blow.'

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
April 24, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill

Congressman Sam Hobbs, who has distinguished himself more than once since he entered the house of representatives about three years ago, made a valiant, if futile, fight against the passage of the anti-lynching bill in the house.

We trust that both Senator Black and Senator Bankhead will lend their great influence to the fight in the senate which, it is admitted by all observers, will be much closer than was the case in the house.

Because the president's court proposal has divided the senate almost equally and because of other political considerations, there is a splendid chance that the new anti-lynching bill, likes its predecessors, will be maneuvered out of position and passage prevented.

Alabamians are particularly proud of the ringing speech Congressman Hobbs made against the measure in the house and The Daily is glad to reprint the following excerpts from his remarks:

"This bill is a rape of justice. This bill is itself the rope with which this mob would lynch the constitutional guarantees which we have cherished through the years. This bill is not an anti-lynching bill. It is a prolynching bill. It will stimulate that dying, almost extinct, disgrace to our civilization-lynching. . . .

"All good citizens glory in the progress we have made towards the goal of a land completely cleared of the stigma of lynching. Even one is a disgrace to civilization. All of us feel that way. But while some have been risking their lives to prevent mob violence, others introduce bills. . . .

"There is not a man in this chamber, not a man in either branch of congress, who is not against lynching. Scarcely a citizen in the whole nation fails to condemn it. I respectfully submit, therefore, that this resort to mob violence to lynch the Constitution by the passage of this outrageous law should not be sanctioned and that the pending motion should be voted down. (Applause).

"Does the spirit of mob violence which is driving this bill through this house make it right? No. It is just as wrong as the hinges of hell; it is just as wrong as any action that was ever taken by a mob, judged by the morals of the situation. You have the votes; you have the power, but you have not the right! (Applause)

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
April 24, 1937

South Is Angered by Anti-Lynching Act

SOUTHERN congressmen found they were no longer in the saddle when the house by a vote of 276 to 119 passed the anti-lynching bill. The debate was furious and the representatives from the South were deeply resentful.

The bill was sponsored by Representative Joseph Gavagan of New York whose district includes the big negro city of Harlem. It provides that any state officer who surrenders a prisoner to a mob shall be guilty of a felony and subject to prosecution and severe penalties. In addition, the county in which a lynching occurs shall be liable for $2,000 to $10,000 damages, to be paid to the family of the lynched person.

Proponents of the measure were greatly aided by a mob in Mississippi that took two negroes from a sheriff and tortured and burned them to death. The local authorities were supine and called the shocking affair a "closed incident."

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ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS PASSED BY HOUSE AFTER BITTER TALK

Times

Solid South's Protests Fail as Gavagan Measure Is Voted by 277 to 119

4-16-37

'END OF STATES' RIGHTS'

New York

Sumners Vainly Cites Mob Decline as Proponents Point to Duck Hill 'Atrocity'

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill was passed by the House, 277 to 119, today after a six-hour debate marked by sectional bitterness.

The vote was largely along Northern-Southern sectional lines, about 100 Southern Representatives losing their three-day battle to defeat the measure on the ground that it is an invasion of States' rights.

The measure provides for Federal fines or prison sentences for peace officers who permit a prisoner to be taken from them and injured or killed, and it also provides an injured person or his kin to institute suits against the guilty peace officers for personal damages.

The two sections containing the suit for personal injury provision were first stricken from the bill in committee of the whole, by a vote of 123 to 118, but they were restored in the House on a roll-call vote, 252 to 139.

Attempts to Amend Bill Fail

All other attempts to amend the bill failed, including that of Representative Frank E. Hook of Michigan, to include sit-down strikes in the definition of crimes to be punished under the bill.

Representative Joseph A. Gavagan of New York, author of the measure, and Representative Emanel Celler of New oYrk, asserted that only through a Federal law would lynching be curbed and that the measure would provide the means to stop recurrence of the crime described by them and others as "dastardly and cowardly."

Chairman Sumners of the Judiciary Committee, leading thet opposition, declared that the South "has a racial problem that most of you gentlemen know nothing of," and added that the bill would not only not prevent lynching, but might prove less of a protection to Negroes than its sponsors hoped.

The Texan pointed out that the bill was directed only toward the protection of persons in custody of officers.

Probably not in this session has the House listened with such avid interest to a speaker as to Mr. Sumners, who occupied the floor for about half an hour.

Sumners Points to Decline

Although he had about twenty volumes of law books on the committee table to cite court decisions aimed at the unconstitutionality of the measure, Mr. Sumners consumed most of his time in a stirring appeal to the House to let the South handle the lynching problem in its own manner.

"You men," he said, pointing to the table where sat Mr. Gavagan and Mr. Celler, "are sincere in your efforts to help protect the Negro race. But I tell you that you will not aid the Negro race with this bill, because it is unworkable.

"The South has reduced the crime of lynching more than 5,000 per cent in the last forty years, and that is proof that the tide of public sentiment will take better care of this situation than can any law you enact.

"You have the votes and you can pass this bill, but I tell you that it will not accomplish the purpose at which you are aiming. There are no people anywhere who are more sincerely opposed to lynching than are the better people of the South. And now you are seeking to cast aspersion on a people which has been laboring for seventy years to do the very things you think you are doing."

As he left the floor Mr. Sumners received an ovation, the members rising to their feet and applauding.

Wrong—"Federalitis"

Many Southern Democrats contended that the bill might have the effect of decreasing some of the protection now afforded persons who have committed brutal crimes. Mobs might contrive to seige a suspected before an officer took him into custody, in which event the officer would not be amenable to the law, they said.

Times

Mr. Sumners said that the measure would give the Federal Government power to prosecute a State Governor unless he called out the militia to suppress threatened lynchings.

He warned that the country was suffering from "Federalitis," or a movement to give the Federal Government more powers. This reference led to an exchange between him and Representative Clare E. Hoffman of Michigan that sent the members and the crowded galleries into prolonged laughter.

Mr. Hoffman asked him if he meant by "Federalitis" the sending "of 30,000 Negroes into Michigan just before the election last November."

"What's the matter," returned Mr. Sumners, "didn't they vote for your party?"

Rankin Hits at Gavagan

Representative Rankin termed the bill a "demogogic aspersion" on the South, and declared that proponents of the measure were attempting to make Harlem "safe for Tammany."

This was denied by Mr. Gavagan and others, who pointed to the two lynchings in Mr. Rankin's home State two days ago as evidence that the measure was "sorely needed," and was sincerely offered as a protection to the Negro race.

Mr. Rankin, pointing his finger at Mr. Cavagan, asserted that "you in New York will one day experience just what we have gone through with since the Civil War."

He recounted various crimes that led to lynchings in his State, and read from a recent magazine an article depicting a series of crimes which he described as an "epidemic" which followed an attack of a Negro upon a young white woman in Michigan recently.

"That's what you can expect," Mr. Rankin said. "We in the South have had a problem for 200 years, which grew out of slavery. And, you know, the slaves were brought to our shores in Yankee ships."

Fish Argues Need of Law

Representative E. E. Cox of Georgia said "this is the first of a number of bills we can expect to come in this House from the reformers of the North seeking to establish racial equality in the South."

In a choking voice Mr. Cox declared that "the South will never surrender its racial lines," and Southern members applauded.

Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, referring to the Duck Hill lynchings in Mississippi, said: "Judging from past experience, I doubt if the members of this atrocious, bloodthirsty mob will be convicted and imprisoned. Only time will tell. I am unwilling to believe that intelligent, law-abiding Southern people have any sympathy with mob violence, torture or with such bestial acts, and that they must see the need for Federal regulation."

Representative John J. O'Connor of New York, acting as chairman of the committee of the whole, ruled out of order two amendments offered by Representative Colmar of Mississippi, seeking to include gang murders and kidnapping in crimes to be punished under the law.

"Lynchings are on a par with gang murders," said Mr. Colmar, "and if it is constitutional to legislate in one field it is constitutional to legislate in another."

One Southerner for Bill

During one of his appearances on the floor, Mr. Hoffman asserted: "You Southern Democrats went to New York and married Tammany, and this bill is the offspring."

Times

Mr. Hoffman was one of the few Republicans who opposed the bill, but his speeches mostly taunted the Democratic side on its split on the anti-lynching issue.

The only Southerner supporting the measure on the floor was Representative Maverick of Texas, who said that he would vote to "remove the stigma" of lynching from "our country."

4-16-37

Representative Frank W. Towey of New Jersey also defended the measure, asserting the Federal judiciary was the only competent authority to determine whether State authorities failed in their duty to protect victims of mobs.

Aligned on the side of the opposition was Representative Wadsworth of New York, a Republican, who called the measure a snare and a delusion," and said that its enforcement was doubtful.

Representative Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, only Negro member of the House, whose bill along similar lines was sidetracked by the House, made a strong appeal for the Gavagan measure, asserting that he knew "how morbs can operate." He recounted an experience while in his home State of Alabama when he said he and his wife kept guns by their sides a whole night while expecting the visitation of a mob.

House Is Orderly

The House was orderly during most of the debate, contrasting with the order of Wednesday, when the bill was first brought up, when the Speaker was forced repeatedly to warn the galleries not to evidence approval or disapproval of speeches or actions. The galleries were well filled during the entire seven hours the House was in session. Scores of Negroes witnessed the proceedings.

Although Speaker Bankhead and Majority Leader Rayburn opposed the bill on the roll-call they kept the House at work on the measure until it was passed. They had served notice on Mr. Rankin and others who sought to delay consideration that the House would be kept in session until the bill was disposed of.

That required seven hours and five minutes, and then the House adjourned over until noon Monday.

Mississippi Is Disturbed

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JACKSON, Miss., April 15.—That Mississippi should have provided in the Duck Hill lunchings of Tuesday a final argument for the passage of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill has disturbed not only officials but also those thoughtful citizens who have seen the lynching problems on the way to being solved by local law enforement.

There seems to be little prospect of local court action in the Montgomery County lynchings. The Sheriff and his deputy said that they could not recognize any of the mob who tied two Negroes to trees and tortured them with a blowtorch before shooting them. The grand jury is "investigating," but if there are indictments it is generally admitted there will be no convictions.

Governor Hugh White, who has had great hopes for racial peace and the coming of new industry to Mississippi, has made no open move except to urge the county officials to make an investigation.

It is said that the Governor, who has received protests from Washington and many parts of the State, is helpless to act unless the local District Attorney requests it.

The lynchings could hardly have come at a more unfortunate time, in view of the Federal legislation, which is regarded here as a menace to State sovereignty.

White Slayer Gets Reprieve

Governor White had just made a speech to the Farmers Chemurgic Conference here, in which he had stressed the fact that there had been no lynchings in a year. Political and business leaders were out to hear the Governor speak.

Another instance of impartial justice was to have been acclaimed to the world from Coffeyville yesterday. This was the execution of William Clark Mitchell, former White Hill farmer, army man and torch murders of two Negroes in 1932. Not since 1889 has a white man been hanged for the murder of a Negro.

At the last moment a writ was signed by Judge R. B. Anderson staying the execution and calling for a sanity test of Mitchell. It was the fourth reprieve for Mitchell, who is in jail here.

His conviction was upheld by the State Supreme Court. The scaffold was erected last night, but, while Governor White was out of the State, Acting Governor John Culkin issued a reprieve.

With Mitchell's execution delayed indefinitely and "those red-necked hill billies from up North," as one official put it, staging a lynching when the law would have executed it, the Governor was in a jittery frame of mind.

Booneville, Miss. Independent
April 22, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL PASSES

A very drastic anti-lynching bill passed the lower house of congress on Thursday of last week by a vote of 277 for the bill and 119 against it, with 34 not voting. In support of the bill party lines were disregarded. It was introduced by Representative Gavagan, a Democrat, from New York City. The opposition to the bill was led by Representative Summers, of Texas, chairman of the Judiciary committee of the House. A bill somewhat less drastic and far-reaching in its provisions was introduced by Representative Miller, negro of Chicago, but in a roll-call vote of the House in committee of the whole the Gavagan bill was selected over the Miller bill and was pushed on to final passage. The bill now goes to the Senate where it will have strong support and likewise strong opposition. The chances are rather against its passage by the Senate, provided no more lynchings occur before the final vote is taken.

For many years efforts have been made by Republican members of congress to secure the passage of an anti-lynching bill and in 1922 Representative Dyer, of Missouri, passed a bill of this sort through the House but it failed in the Senate. In 1934 a Senate bill had a favorable report from the judiciary committee but was never brought to a vote. Again in 1935 strong efforts were made to get a bill before the Senate but Sen. Borah made a statement that he considered the bill un-constitutional and would oppose it on that ground and after his statement no further efforts were made to get action on the bill. The bill which passed the House last week was pending with uncertain fate, the discussion being at white heat, when news flashed to Washington that two negroes had been lynched, and tortured to death in a cruel and inhuman fashion at Duck Hill, and that made certain the passage of the bill. According to news reports [illegible] the negroes were slowly tortured after they had been chained to a tree.

Not in all the annals of crime, not in the jungles of Africa, not in the Dark Ages of sin and crime in the world anywhere has there been a more cruel, revolting and in-excusable murder than the Duck Hill lynching. These negroes had murdered a law-abiding and inoffensive citizen and deserved the supreme punishment of the law. Nowhere was there any sympathy for the negroes. They deserved none so far as the law applied to them. It seems that the officers of Montgomery county had been vigilant in running them down. They had been captured, indicted and admitted their guilt and in 24 hours longer they would have been, most certainly, convicted and sentenced to hang. No delay had been asked or contemplated. The law was moving swiftly to bring the murderers to justice. When court was adjourned for the noon recess the sheriff and his deputies started to the jail house with their prisoners. When they reached the ground they were met by a number of men, leaders of a mob, who took the negroes from the law officers without a scramble. They were hurried into waiting cars and rushed off toward Duck Hill where they were chained to trees and tortured to death by applying the intensive heat of blow torches to their flesh.

So far as newspaper reports indicate the sheriff made no effort to protect the law and did not even follow the mob and arrest the leaders. The judge and the district attorney were on the ground and so far as reports from that county reveal no detail of men was sent to identify the mob leaders. Gov. White was notified and his first impulse was to call a detachment of national guard from Grenada but was told, according to reports, that it was too late and would avail nothing. Yet the indications are that the soldiers could have reached Duck Hill in ample time to have arrested the leaders of the mob even before they had ceased to torture the negroes. If the national guard had been sent there under double-quick orders in two hours they could have filled the Montgomery county jail to the doors with members of the mob and in 24 hours they could have been indicted and tried and sentenced. Such an act as that would have won the praise and commendation of the civilized world, and put an end to mob violence in this state. But as it is the strong arm of the law has failed and no longer wields its scepter of control. Constituted authority means nothing in a crisis.

Mississippi could have been covered with glory in the name of the law but as it is the state is besmirched with shame. Down the ages of time to generations yet unborn the archives of history will proclaim this awful story. The Duck Hill mob passed the anti-lynching bill in the House last week. Gov. White can defeat it in the Senate. We believe firmly that the Governor will do something in this matter. If he has members of the mob arrested and indicted and swiftly punished it will be a great moral block in the Senate when the anti-lynching bill comes up in that body. The eyes of the world are on Gov. White now and will closely watch him through this matter. Mr. Summers, who was leading the fight on the anti-lynching bill in congress wired Gov. White just after the lynching and the Associated Press handled his wire in the following from Washington:

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Chairman Summers (D.-Tex) of the house judiciary committee, telegraphed Governor White of Mississippi today that the state could not escape being an accessory to the Duck Hill lynchings unless it brings "these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Terming the lynchings "as dastardly a crime as cowardice could devise and brutally execute," Sumners said:

"It is the sort of thing which makes it hard for us who are here trying to protect the governmental sovereignty of the states.

"It will be effectively seized upon as a demonstration of the inability of the states to govern. As one Southern man to another I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction and

subject to a heavy fine or[illegible] if the mobs would let people alone or both. It provides that[illegible] and let the law punish them as it should. family of a lynched per-In most cases in this state the law has ver a large sum of money[illegible]been well enforced against people com- nty in which the lynching[illegible]mitting murder and other high crimes. uld create a situation that[illegible]Except, of course, in the matter of lynch a sheriff to be afraid to[illegible]oing. ith a prisoner without the s, and as Gov. White has would require a standing state at a big expense to . All of this would be un- not a matter for any con-

Lynchings-1937
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5677

ANTI-LYNCH BILL PASSED BY HOUSE IN BITTER FIGHT

Southern Congressmen Roar Insults at Negro People

By Alan Max
(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 15.—While the Southern Democratic bloc roared the vilest insults against the Negro people, the House today passed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill by the overwhelming vote of 276 to 119.

Passage of the measure climaxed a 15 year old fight to bring anti-lynching legislation even for discussion.

The entire group from the South, including the solid leadership of the House, opposed the bill and participated in a revolting orgy of lynch hysteria.

The only representative from the deep South to vote for the bill was Rep. Maury Maverick of Texas.

The measure was immediately sent to the Senate, where Senator Josiah Bailey of North Carolina has already served notice that he would attempt to kill it with a filibuster.

RANKIN DROPS MASK

For the first half of the long debate today, the Southerners kept up their argument of "constitutionality," telling how much they really "loved" the Negro people and how they were waiting "to be greeted by the black arms" of their Negro nurses when they reached heaven.

Then without warning, Rep. John E. Rankin, Democrat of Mississippi, scene of Tuesday's acetyline torch lynchings, let the mask fall.

Only the robe was missing from Rankin's hand as he pranced around shooting the details of a series of supposed attacks on white women.

Once the rule had been given by Rankin, other Southerners fell in line, ranting as if they were already on a lynching-bee.

Rep. Eugene Cox of Georgia, shouted that the Gavagan bill was the only the "first of a series of measures to be inflicted on the South in order to bring about social equality."

Declaring that "the color line in the South is a permanent institution," Cox raved about "racial purity" and attempts to "mongrolize" the white race.

AMENDMENT FAILS

Rep. Ford of Mississippi, attacked the pending Koppleman bill to bar discrimination in the District of Columbia, and told the House: "When you talk about equality for niggers' in theatres and restaurants, every man with a wife or daughter, will arm himself to the teeth and go down the street and shoot every one he sees."

Talking directly to the Southern bloc, Rep. Maverick told them that he came from a "family of Confederate soldiers," but that he was going to vote for the measure, "for I think it is right."

An attempt to smuggle anti-labor provisions into a good bill, was again made when Rep. Hook, Democrat of Michigan, unsuccessfully tried to amend the measure so as to penalize sitdown strikes along with lynching.

A combination, of Northern Democrats, Farmer-Laborites, Progressives and a large part of the Republicans, defeated all efforts of the Southerners to block the bill.

The sharpest fight developed over an attempt to cut out the penalties on counties where police negligence results in lynchings. The move was defeated by a roll call. Vote was 252 to 139 after a teller vote showed 228 to 118 in favor.

HOUSE VOTES PASSAGE OF ANTI-LYNCHING BILL OVER DIXIE OPPONENTS

Northern Democrats Combine With G. O. P. In Adopting Measure, 276 To 119

BORAH DOUBTS VALIDITY

'Aimed at South,' Enemies of Plan Cry in H. Debate

PATH IN SENATE ROUGHER

'Let Us Alone!' Texan Demands in Denouncing Proposal To Make Mob Violence Federal Government Offense

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The House overrode southern opposition tonight to pass the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. It would authorize the federal government to intervene in mob crimes to punish participants and negligent officers.

After more than six hours of debate, it voted 276 to 119 to approve the measure and sent it to the Senate where, sponsors agreed, it faced sterner opposition.

Even as the House voted, Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, issued a statement condemning what he called an "effort to force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

Republicans Back Bill

In general, Republicans joined with northern Democrats in supporting the bill.

The measure, the first of its kind to pass since 1922, would subject an officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death to a fine ranging up to $5,000 and to as much as five years in prison.

Likewise, participants would be subject to from five to 25 years imprisonment.

Asserting the bill was aimed at the south, opponents from that section sought in vain to strike out provisions that would subject counties in which a prisoner was seized or put to death to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. The money would go to a victim's family.

Action Reversed

The opponents succeeded once in deleting the sections, only to be reversed by a 232 to 139 vote just before the measure passed.

Describing these provisions as the "heart of the bill," its author, Representative Gavagan, Democrat, New York., who represents a New York City district with a large negro population, said the measure would not be "worth the paper it's written on" without them.

While much of the debate centered on constitutionality of the legislation, such issues as partisan politics, President Roosevelt's court reorganization program and general matters of governmental authority were injected.

Denying the legislation's constitutionality Chairman Sumners, Democrat, Texas, of the House judiciary committee, warned:

"This bill would give the federal government power to prosecute a governor if he should not call out the militia in case of a lynching."

Figures Cited

"Why don't you [illegible] in the south alone and give us a chance to show what we will do about this situation?" he continued. He then cited figures to show that lynchings had declined 5,000 per cent since the peak in 1892.

One of the few Republicans opposing the bill, Representative Hoffman, of Michigan, asserted its object was to give the "Democratic party in New York more negro votes."

Voicing similar views, Representative Rankin, Democrat, Mississippi, shoulted at Mr. Gavagan:

"You want to make Harlem safe for Tammany."

Negro for Bill

A plea for the bill was made by Representative Mitchell, Democrat, Illinois, only negro member of Congress, whose own measure was sidetracked last week. He told colleagues of his own experience with a mob. He said that once when he was teaching in Alabama a mob "marched within three miles of my schoolhouse to lynch me because I had stopped payment on a $20 check obtained through fraud."

"The best thing you can do to encourage the negro race is to pass this legislation," he declared.

Representative Cox, Democrat, Georgia, bitterly accused northern Democrats of turning against the south.

"For more than 100 years the south has kept the Democratic party alive. Now that it has grown fat and powerful, it proposes to turn upon the south and deal it this wicked blow."

Mission Leaders Wire Protest To White

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., April 15.—Voicing sentiment against lynching as recently expressed by Women's Missionary Societies of the North Mississippi Methodist Conference, in session at Aberdeen, Mrs. H. L. Talbert, of Clarksdale, president of the North Mississippi W. M. S., today wired Governor White, asking a thorough investigation of the lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill this week.

Mrs. Talbert, who conferred with Mrs. R. P. Neblett, of Brooksville, conference secretary, and Mrs. W. H. Ratliff, of Sherard, conference vice president, here today, said at least 5,000 women in North Mississippi voiced sentiment against lynchings in petitions presented at the Aberdeen conference by the various societies.

Mrs. Talbert said the campaign against lynching was part of the Christian social relations program which was discussed at Aberdeen.

The telegram follows:

"The more than 5,000 members of the Woman's Missionary Society of North Mississippi are shocked and humiliated at the brutal lynchings perpetrated by the mob at Duck Hill. We wish to register our protest and urge a thorough official investigation of the mob violence and the conviction of the guilty parties."

Mob Not From County, Says Prosecutor

WINONA, Miss., April 15.—(UP)—Montgomery County authorities, contending the torture-lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill was done by outsiders, tonight said they had no clue as to the identity of any of the mob.

"We have been unable to get anything definite," District Attorney Clarence E. Morgan said. "However, we are confident none of the parties in the mob was from Montgomery County."

The negroes—Roosevelt Townes, 25, and "Bootjack" McDaniel, 26, were taken to near Duck Hill. The mob tortured the negroes with a blowtorch and lynched them near a crossroads store, whose operator, George S. Windham, was accused of murdering and robbing [illegible]

He claimed he had "information that the mobsters were from the surrounding counties of Grenada, Carroll and probably Webster and Tallahatchie."

Sheriff E. E. Wright and two deputies, from whom the negroes were seized here, continued to maintain they had not recognized any of the mobsters.

Mr. Morgan said any grand jury investigation would be deferred "until we get something to go on." Circuit Judge John Allen had ordered the grand jury to investigate.

Governor White had not indicated whether state officials would intervene in the investigation.

"There is no evidence that there was even a leader to the mob," Mr. Morgan said. "The mob just came on us like an April shower, and no one was recognized—but the parties were not from Montgomery County."

UNCALLED FOR LEGISLATION

The passage by the house of congress of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill is regrettable. It is to be hoped that the measure will meet the defeat it deserves at the hands of the senate.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, correctly brands the bill "an effort to force through congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

The Georgia delegation vigorously opposed the bill both by their votes and on the floor of the house. For this they are to be warmly commended.

This iniquitous measure is aimed at the south. Particularly obnoxious, as pointed out by members of congress from various southern states, is the provision that any county in which a prisoner is seized by a mob or put to death may be subjected to a fine of from $1,000 to $10,000, the money to be paid to the victim's family. The possibilities in such a law are alarming to contemplate.

The chief iniquity of the bill, however, lies in the fact that it is the worst example, to date, of the growing tendency to force federal interference into affairs which are strictly matters for the states themselves to handle. The bill strikes at one of the most fundamental of state's rights, the right to exercise exclusive police power over its own citizens. Federal policing of crime in any state is a dangerous innovation and one that could easily lead to utter submergence of the states as governmental entities.

There can be no doubt that the charge, made by southern opponents of the bill, that it is aimed at the south, is true. Though the black record of lynching includes many mob crimes committed in other parts of the country, it is self-evident that, had there been no lynchings in the south, the measure would not have been introduced and would not have received the strange support of a temporary coalition of northern Democrats with the Republican minority.

That lynching is a frightful crime which cannot, on any grounds, be condoned, no intelligent person will deny. That it is a shameful blot upon modern civilization is not open to argument.

But, emphatically, the cure does not lie through federal interference with the sacred rights of the states. The cure, as for all social evils, lies in education, and is evident, to the unprejudiced, that education is steadily wiping out the evil.

The records reveal that, since the peak of [illegible], the number of lynchings in the country as a whole has decreased 5,000 per cent. The greater part of this improvement has taken place in the south.

Occasionally we are still shocked and horrified by the report of another mob outrage, but they become steadily less frequent. Public condemnation grows stronger and the day has passed when any man may safely boast that he was a member of a lynching mob.

Education is curing the evil. Education will perfect that cure in due time. Federal assumption of a duty that is emphatically a duty of the state is not the prescription for the disease.

It is to be hoped the senate will promptly scotch this evil proposal. If anti-lynching legislation is needed, it is certainly not of the type of the Gavagan bill.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL VOTED BY HOUSE

Even as Measure Is Passed Senator Borah Attacks It as Unjust, Unmoral.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—(AP) The house overrode bristling southern opposition tonight to pass the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. It would authorize the federal government to intervene in mob crimes to punish participants and negligent officers.

After more than six hours' hectic debate, it voted 277 to 119 to approve the measure and sent it to the senate where, sponsors agreed, it faced sterner opposition.

Even as the house voted, Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, issued a statement condemning what he called an "effort to force through congress an unjust, unconstitutional, and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

In general, Republicans joined with northern Democrats in supporting the bill.

The measure, the first of its kind to pass either house since 1922, would subject an officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death to a fine ranging up to $5,000 and to as much as five years in prison.

Likewise, participants would be subject to from five to 25 years imprisonment.

Asserting the bill was aimed at the south, opponents from that section sought in vain to strike from the bill provisions that would subject counties in which a prisoner was seized or put to death to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000, the money would go to the victim's family.

Representative Cox, Democrat, Georgia, bitterly accused northern Democrats of turning against the south.

"For more than 100 years the south has kept the Democratic party alive. Now it has grown fat and powerful, it proposes to turn upon the south and deal it this wicked blow."

Borah Hits Bill.

While much of the debate centered on constitutionality of the legislation, such issues as partisan politics, President Roosevelt's court reorganization program and centralization of governmental authority were injected.

Denying the legislation's constitutionality, as did Senator Borah, Chairman Sumners, Democrat, Texas, of the house judiciary committee, warned colleagues:

"This bill would give the federal government power to prosecute a Governor if he did not call out the militia in case of a lynching.

"Why don't you let us in the south alone and give us a chance to show what we can do about this situation." He then cited figures to show that lynchings had declined 5,000 per cent since the peak in 1892.

One of the few Republicans opposing the bill, Representative Hoffman, of Michigan, asserted its object was to give the "Democratic party in New York more negro votes."

The entire Georgia delegation voted against the bill.

LYNCHINGS STIR DEBATE OVER FEDERAL MEASURE

WASHINGTON, April 13.—(AP) The house received reports of the lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill, Miss., today in the midst of debate over a federal anti-lynching bill.

Proponents immediately seized upon the mob actions as an argument in behalf of a proposal by Representative Gavagan, Democrat, New York, to impose heavy fines and prison terms on persons figuring in lynchings.

"This lynching is not an indication that the laws of Mississippi condone or approve such acts," declared Representative Miller, Democrat, Arkansas.

"Those participating in this lynching," he added, "have violated the law of Mississippi and the good citizens of the state will resent it. But it is not a case for federal interference."

A Mississippi Democrat, Representative Colmer, asked Representative Fish, Republican, New York, if the measure would apply to "gang murders for which your state is known."

Chairman Sumners, Democrat, Texas, of the judiciary committee and opposition floor leader, criticized proponents for "failing to point out" that southern states had virtually stopped lynchings.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
April 28, 1937

State Rights And Mob Rule.

While Southern Senators and Representatives in Congress are against a Federal anti-lynching law, and stand practically as a unit in opposition to the pending Gavagan bill proposing such a law, it is interesting to note that perhaps most of the Southern newspapers favor enactment of that measure, which has passed the House. These newspapers formerly opposed Federal legislation aimed at mob lawlessness, but as the years passed and lynching mobs continued to operate with impunity they have reached the conclusion that there is no other remedy for this evil, which afflicts the South particularly. Commenting on the attitude of Southern Congressmen who contend that the Gavagan bill would infringe State rights, the Louisville Courier-Journal says:

"While the country has been waiting for the States to prove their ability and will to deal with this question, and noting their failure to deal with it, lynchings have continued; and while some of the victims have been saved from mobs, the lynchers and mobs are not punished. In 1935 there were twenty lynchings, but nobody has been punished for them. Just before the House enacted the Gavagan bill there were two lynchings in Mississippi. Of the twenty victims of mob law in 1935, thirteen were in the hands of the law, five were taken from jails, six from law officers outside of jails, and two were shot to death in jails. The Gavagan law now proposes to turn over to the National Government the work which the State Governments have failed to do. That seems to be the only chance of getting it done at all."

The Herald Courier reached that conclusion some years ago and has advocated a Federal anti-lynching law in the belief that it would at least do no harm and in the hope that it might solve the lynching problem. There seems no possibility of any other solution. The States have failed either to prevent many mob murders or to punish the murderers and there is no more promise now than there has been in the past that mob lawlessness will be suppressed by the States. We are supposed to live under the rule of the law, but we live under the rule of the mob when the mob chooses to assert itself. The question is whether we shall tolerate mob rule from generation to generation or shall invoke Federal aid which may bring it to an end.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to

5678

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
November 26, 1937

WHAT IS THE ANTI-LYNCH LAW?

What is the federal anti-lynching law? The measure is before Congress with fair chances of being enacted. It is a new deal measure, opposed by an overwhelming majority of southern Congressmen and Senators and supported by a majority of northern Democrats and many Republicans. As far as the public has been able to determine it has the unqualified endorsement of President Roosevelt. Here is what Gen. Hugh Johnson says on the subject of the nature of the anti-lynching bill:

"It defines lynching as three or more people taking and injuring or killing a person charged with, suspected or convicted of a crime. When this happens, the responsible state or municipal cop who wilfully neglected his duty, or failed to arrest the lynchers, can be tried by a federal court and, if convicted, sent to the penitentiary as a felon. Also, in behalf of any person so injured or killed the U. S. Attorney General, using federal funds can bring a civil suit against any town where such a thing occurred and collect damages up to $10,000.

"Only once before during the life of our Constitution was it believed that the federal government could supervise the execution of state laws or officers or discipline local governments and officers. That once was the ravishment of the South by carpet-bag tyranny after the Civil war in the tragic Reconstruction Era—the most disgraceful period in our history."

Following the quoted paragraph, Gen. Johnson proceeds to tell who is supporting the anti-lynching bill and why they are supporting it. Here it is:

"Lynching and mob violence are particularly dangerous and despicable crimes. Few statesmen dare go against what the public has been bally-hooed into believing is an anti-lynching bill no matter how bad or dangerous it is on other grounds. Due to state action, lynching has almost disappeared—from hundreds of cases years ago, mostly in the South—to nine last year. This, besides being a bad issue, is a false issue. Why is it raised?

"The negro vote in the few pivotal states of greatest electoral votes is now large enough to swing any close election there and some of those states are large enough to be necessary in any national election. Negroes are all new new dealers. They have every reason to believe that this bill will keep them so permanently, and they care not a hoot for the objection of people who think our system of dual state and national government should be preserved.

"They don't want it preserved. They want a modified fascist front in a federal dictatorship based on discontents of all kinds. They want to break up the old Democracy of the Solid South and rebuild a Third New Deal party of negroes, the unemployed, aliens and all those who claim a class grievance—to break down the states and constitutional guarantees and centralize all political power where they can control it. This is just their dish.

Read that again. Negroes—northern negroes, at least—are all new dealers, Gen. Johnson says. They have been hooked by the new deal with government spending of money raided from the federal treasury and with various kinds of political and government favors and handouts. In the great population centers of the country in the States having the largest number of votes and electoral votes, in a close election, the negroes hold the balance of power. Their votes county heavily in any case. The purpose of the anti-lynching bill, Gen. Johnson says, is to permanently tie the negro voters to the new deal.

Then read again the last paragraph of Gen. Johnson's comment. In that paragraph will be found his estimate of the new deal and new dealers.

Washington D. C
N. S. B. News
Nov. 22, 1937

THE anti-lynching debate in Congress caused enterprising statisticians to sharpen their pencils and produce data to show that 3,679 individuals lost their lives through "lynch law" in the United States from 1882 to Sept. 1, 1937. Of these 700 were white; 2,979 Negroes. No lynchings are recorded in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont.

* * *

NEARLY three-quarters of all lynchings have occurred in eight States. Mississippi comes first with 455, then Georgia (469), Texas (354), Louisiana (342), Alabama (305), [illegible], Arkansas (241), and Tennessee (210). Far more Negroes than whites have been lynched in the South but the situation is reversed in the West and Mid-West, where the colored victims comprised only 13 per cent of the 257 in 17 States.

Columbus, Ga., News Record
November 25, 1937

They Don't Call it Lynching in Kentucky

IN THE Senate Tuesday Senator Connally of Texas made some remarks on the subject of the pending anti-lynching bill. It was a serious subject, but at times the senator's remarks were light hearted; indeed, we believe what he said will make very good reading for this editorial page, and so this extract is taken from Senator Connally's observations as conscientiously reported by The Congressional Record:

"The subcommittee came in one morning and said, 'We have the lynching bill.' The committee said, 'We are going to report it.' I said, 'Well, of course, you have the votes. I am against it!' so I do not know how it was put together. I do not know how the joiners and the carpenters put the thing together. I know they came in with a bill, but I was not in the chemical laboratory when they poured in the different potions and the different elements and the different chemicals to make up this structure.

"I wish I could quote that reference of Shakespeare in Macbeth about the witches' dance, when they put in the frogs' toes, and the newts' eyes, and the owl's wings, and the entrails of the snake, and the bitterest part of the polecat (laughter), and all that sort of thing. I should like to be able to put that in the Record, and I suspect that the official reporters can do it, because I have found out that the official reporters who report these debates know much more about Shakespeare and other things than Senators who try to quote them; so all I ever do is just to sort of hit the quotation, trusting that they will go to Shakespeare and get it correctly.

"I fancy that is somewhat the way this bill was compounded. One of the Senators said, 'Well, we shall have to do something about this. There are a lot of voters like this in my State. There are some people down in Florida or somewhere else; and we shall have to reform those fellows.' Then probably the Senator from New York said, 'Well, now, wait a minute, boys. I am for that, but we shall have to look after our own people here. We shall have to let the racketeers out of this bill. We cannot get hold of the gangsters, because while I shall probably forty or fifty thousand colored votes with the bill, if I do not exempt the gangsters I shall lose a hundred thousand gangsters' votes.' (Laughter). He probably said, 'Now, I know that may be regarded as expediency. That may not be regarded as a great fundamental principle; but, you know, we here in New

"The leadership—and when I say 'leadership' I do not mean simply the Senator from committee, or if the meet-Kentucky (Mr. Barkley); I mean the little subcommittee room, I suppose a Charlie McCarthy—this little group that rather try to make him appear to little committee room like had the meeting the other bill. I do not know. I am they telephone me to come want my vote. (Laughter). over here. I never know in going to happen in the Sen-

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ing; and I have no objection to his being a colored man. I am not prejudiced against colored men. I protect them in my State. I have defended many a one against a white man, and won his lawsuit, too. I cannot say what I heard (laughter), but there was a colored man up here, a fellow named White. He runs the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. I do not know what happened; I cannot say what happened, because I was not there. Frankly, I was not called in on this bill.

"It is a great pleasure, though, to be in the rear ranks. You know, if you are a general or a colonel, you have a lot of responsibility. I see before me a distinguished gentleman who was a colonel during the World War. But if you are just a private, God knows you do not have to think. You do not have to worry about strategy or questions of supply. You do not have to bother about logistics, or tactics, or the line of supply, or communications. All you have to do is just do what they tell you. You just take your place in the near ranks and do what they tell you to do. There is no trouble at all. You may have to get up a little earlier than the other fellows. Of course, you have to get up earlier than the colonel does, and you have to work harder than the colonel does, and you do not get much pay. The colonels and the generals get the pay; but, then, you do not have any responsibility.

"So as to this bill I am just a private. I am not considered or consulted as to what we want or what the opponents of this measure want. We are like Tennyson's Six Hundred who charge ddown at Balaklava. It is not our 'to reason why'; our 'but to do and die.' So I am not complaining. I am glad I was not consulted. I am glad I was not in that little conference. I do not know who the white men were who were there, but I know that this colored man was there. I know the President was not there, but his requests were there. The President's request that we take up the farm bill and the President's request that we take up reorganization were both there, because here they are in the Record. Then there was a colored man there, and the colored man won out over the President. What the colored man wanted done was done, and the President's requests were thrown into the waste-basket.

"Do you blame me for talking plainly here?

"Let us see what Kentucky did about this thing. Why, Kentucky did not have a single lynching in 1936, and this provision will let out all the feudists in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. They are not eligible. They can kill all the people they want to if they will do it under the name of a feud in Kentucky. I am amazed that my good friend, the beloved leader here, the senior Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Barkley), should sponsor this bill. They do not have any lynching in Kentucky. They do not call it 'lynching' there. They call it just a little disagreement. (Laughter). They have a little social disagreement over in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, and they just get out their old Enfields and shot all the insides out of half a dozen fellows, and that is just a feudists' dlisagreement. It is not a lynching.

"But if there is one little lynching down in the South, these Kentuckians from their mountain tops adjust their legislative telescopes and point the finger of scorn at us and say, 'Oh, it is terrible. We have to have a Federal law on them.' Those ravines over in eastern Kentucky are just full of feudists. Have you an open season where you allow them to shoot so many a month? (Laughter). We have quotas in nearly everything, and I thought probably there was a quota in Kentucky for certain months or certain periods. (Laughter)."

Bristol, Va., News-Bulletin
November 24, 1937

Senator Bailey Miscues

In the course of a speech in the Senate which began with opposition to the anti-lynching bill and spread out to many aspects of the Roosevelt administration, Senator Bailey cited the incident several months ago in Morehead City, N. C., in which two union organizers were run out of town. As quoted in a long verbatim account in the Raleigh News and Observer, Senator Bailey said, in the course of his speech, those words:

"The people in the town just did one thing. They got hold of those two fellows, put them on a bus and said, 'You clear out of here; and if you do not clear, we might need a lynch law down here.' And they cleared out. Pretty rough of them, pretty strong of them, but sometimes you have got to do something when people come dwn to break up your civilization."

The Congressional Record has a different version "They got hold of those two fellows," it quotes Senator Bailey as saying, "put them on a bus, and said, 'You clear out of here', and if they had not cleared out, I do not know what would have happened; but they cleared out." In the first instance, Senator Bailey was quoted as saying that the Morehead City people threatened the two union organizers with a lynching. In the second instance no reference to lynching appears.

How this discrepancy arose we do not know, nor which version is correct, although it frequently happens that what Senators have said in the heat of debate they tone down on the written report before it appears in print in the Congressional Record. It is to be hoped that a mistake has been made, because the first version reveals a Southern Senator, in the midst of a speech against the anti-lynching bill, quoting with approval a threat of lynching.

But regardless of that, and accepting the Congressional Record version as correct, one is forced to the conclusion that Senator Bailey at least approves, and said so on the Senate floor, an act which was a direct and serious violation of civil rights. Whether the organizers could bring economic salvation to shirt factory workers is beside the point. Whether they would have a contrary effect is also beside the point. The point is that they had a legal right to be in Morehead City and that anybody who put them on a bus and sent them rolling out of town was violating the law.

If Senator Bailey were run out of Raleigh in this manner, he would carry the case, if necessary, to the Supreme Court, and he would win. It is astonishing to hear him defending such action.—Norfolk Virginian Pilot.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
November 26, 1937

There have been 7 lynchings since first of the year. In that same time there have been 200 killings in Chicago. And yet the Illinois members of Congress are all very much in favor of the anti-lynching bill. Isn't there something said somewhere about cleaning up around your own doorstep?

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
November 23, 1937

Senator Smith's Complaint

SPEAKING in opposition to the anti-lynching bill the other day Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina declared that the movement for its passage "is the most opprobious, the most uncalled for, and the most vicious attack upon a section of the country that has ever been made in our history."

He said that it comes "from the party to which my section has given allegiance during all the disappointing years following the War Between the States."

And at another point he stated:

"What galls me more than anything else is that it comes from the so-called Democratic party, which we have loved and which, in the dark days of Reconstruction, was our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night.

"I wonder sometimes what is the purpose of the treatment being accorded the South.

"The two-thirds rule in national conventions was abolished and we were eliminated from any participation in the naming of a president.

"You are about to pass and perhaps will pass an hours and wages bill which, in the recrudescent state of my section, will crucify it.

"Now you come along and say, 'You are not competent to protect your prisoners'; and so the great purified, sublimated, glorified, crime-ridden New York . . . must shed its light on poor benighted South Carolina and the rest of the South and send its gifted peace officers down there to help eliminate lynching and promote racketeering."

A growing number of southerners, Senator Smith, are wondering with you about this changing attitude on the part of the national Democratic party toward the South, wondering about it and worrying, too.

The New Deal, 1937 model, has many points of excellence but it has some of the other kind, too, and a number of them unhappily step on the toes of the South.

This wouldn't be true except for the fact that under our one-party system everybody knows that before a campaign starts the South already is in the bag for the Democrats.

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Legislation Relating to.

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OLD HOSTILITY FLARES OVER ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Senate Opponents Are Reconciled to Passage, but They Hold That High Court Is Certain to Intervene

By HENRY N. DORRIS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20.—All the animosity, bitterness, bantering and even hilarity that have marked the thirty-year campaign for a Federal anti-lynching law were evidenced again this week in the revival of the legislation in the Senate. Nevertheless, proponents of the Gavagan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill now see victory ahead. Even opponents of the measure concede that in the near future it will be on the statute books, but they contend that it will be an empty victory because of a long line of Supreme Court decisions which they believe has established the principle that such legislation violates the rights of the States.

The chief innovation in the oft-repeated arguments produced by this week's debate is the assertion by Southern Democrats, traditionally opponents of the legislation, that even though they have lost from the Senate floor one of the most vigorous fighters against the Anti-Lynching Bill, they have gained in the person of Associate Justice Hugo L. Black a friend on the Supreme Court to further bolster their claim that the legislation will be thrown out on the first test case. Justice Black, during the 1935 debate on a similar bill, stated his opposition on the ground of its unconstitutionality.

Proponents Taunted

Because of their confidence in the claims of unconstitutionality, Southern Democrats have adopted the tactics of taunting Senators Wagner, Van Nuys and Clark, Senate sponsors, contending their sole purpose is to garner the votes of Negro constituents.

The present measure, introduced in the House by Representative Gavagan of New York but re-written by the Senate Judiciary Committee, provides that a person injured by a mob or, in the event he is killed, his heirs may bring suit in a Federal court having jurisdiction against the State subdivision responsible, and recover damages of not less than $2,000 or more than $10,000. The officer found guilty of permitting a prisoner to be taken from him is subject to a $5,000 fine, or five years' imprisonment, or both. The bill defines as a mob three or more persons who take from an officer a prisoner suspected of, charged with, or guilty of a crime and injures or kills him.

Based on Amendment

The basis of the bill is the Fourteenth Amendment, which says that "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of any citizen of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; or deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law." Section 5 of the amendment says: "Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

In the penalty proposed against a political subdivision, proponents feel that they will bring the support of the taxpaying public to bear against lynching. If a Federal court, under the law, returned a judgment against a subdivision in favor of an injured party, the Attorney General would be given authority to proceed to collect such judgment, which of course would be out of the tax funds.

In proposing the legislation, its authors have anticipated arguments of opponents by saying:

(1) Lynchings are not due to legal delays.

(2) Charges of crimes against women are among the less frequent causes of lynching, and many of the alleged offenses for which persons were lynched have been "shockingly trivial."

(3) Medical opinion leans now to the view that lynchings spring from a sadistic type of madness, which can be repressed by community influence, but which, if not repressed, is satisfied only by acts of savagery.

State Laws Cited

In addition, proponents cite the fact that eleven States have enacted anti-lynching legislation, with results considered excellent. North and South Carolina are among these States, and both were free of lynchings last year.

Proponents also assert that a line of Supreme Court decisions support their contention that the legislation is constitutional and enforceable.

Opponents take two main lines of reasoning to argue their case:

The first, coming from the South almost wholly, is that public sentiment has been aroused in great degree in the past sixty years against the crime of lynching, and that lynching has decreased year by year, as a result almost solely of enlightened public thought. Statistics show that in 1888 sixty-four white persons and forty-nine Negroes, or a total of 113 persons, were lynched. The largest number of lynchings on record was in 1892, when 231 persons met death at the hands of mobs. But as the population of the country has increased, opponents of the bill point out, the number of lynchings has materially decreased, until last year there were only nine. These same opponents contend that if the South is allowed to care for the problem it will eventually stamp out the crime.

Effect on Officials

The second principal argument is that, if a local official is made responsible for the safety of a prisoner, in many instances he will "look the other way" and not take into custody a person suspected of a crime which might result in mob violence.

Critics say also that it is grossly unfair to provide that the United States bring suit against a county or city to punish the entire citizenship for the act of a few persons. They assert that the overwhelming sentiment of the citizenship everywhere is opposed to lynching, and they insist that if the law is to be enacted it so define a mob that communities permitting gang or racketeer murders may be made subject to the same punitive provisions. Gangsters and racketeers are specifically exempted in the bill.

In view of this week's filibuster the Anti-Lynching Bill may have to go over until the regular session of Congress in January, but opponents have already conceded there is not the remotest chance of preventing a vote than

Anti-Lynching Bill For Votes Alone

The Anti-Lynching Bill has passed the House and the Senate has the votes to pass it. Southerners oppose the bill because it is unconstitutional. Northerners favor it for the same reason. It is a punitive measure aimed at Southern states by Northern Democrats and Republicans in their contest for the Northern negro vote. The Anti-Lynching Bill was originally sponsored by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts. That was in the day when the Republicans had the negro vote. Now that negroes have gone Democratic a Northern Democrat sponsors the bill. The Northern Republicans will vote for the passage of the bill in the hope that some day the negroes will return to the party of Abraham Lincoln, who was the last President they can refer to with pride or with the hope of applause. They would like to say a kind word for Theodore Roosevelt for oratorical effect but it would be interpreted as reference to the Bull Moose candidate who helped elect Woodrow Wilson president.

Congress Filibusters To Hide Aimlessness

The Anti-Lynching Bill was brought up at this time for the purpose of starting a filibuster and concealing the fact that the Congress has nothing to do. It has declined to follow the suggestion of the President and gone its several ways. It was known that Southern Democrats would oppose the passage of the bill to the point of exhaustion.

They haven't the votes to defeat it. Their only hope is the strength of endurance. If strength holds out the bill may be displaced when the Agricultural Bill is ready. The Northerners really are not interested in lynchings. Their sole concern is votes. The Southerners are opposed to the bill because they know that with the usual provocation it will result in lynchings. The bill provides that when a prisoner is taken from the custody of a sheriff and lynched, the county and officers in charge of the prisoner are subject to financial penalties for the benefit of the victim's family.

Southern congressmen know that if the bill is passed no sheriff will hold a prisoner in custody when a mob forms to lynch him. The prisoner will be turned loose and the officers will wash their hands of the case. The prisoner will be denied protection of the law. He will not be held in jail. He will be a hunted animal with the officers turning their backs, seeing nothing and hearing nothing. The risk will be too great to warrant arrest.

THE WAGNER-VAN NUYS BLUNDER

Referring to the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill, which has been occupying the time of the United States senate despite that it was not included, directly or indirectly, in the purposes for which the special session was called, the Washington Post, in a recent editorial says:

Congress might better abandon all legislative efforts to minimize lynching than to indulge in such a blunder. (Enactment of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill.) Before this measure is again presented to the senate it should be thoroughly revised to a basis of co-operation between local and federal authorities. And if that is found to be impracticable, the only reasonable alternative is to abandon it entirely.

The lynching problem is, admittedly, a serious one. No intelligent, decent citizen condones or excuses this most barbaric of modern-day crimes. The senators and representatives, chiefly from the south, who have opposed the present bill, cannot, in any respect, be accused of favoring lynching.

Senator Walter F. George, of Georgia, is typical of the southerners who have spoken against the measure. He is quoted by the Post, from his speech against the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, as describing mob violence as a "horrid, horrible, brutal outrage which no one defends."

The vast majority of southerners agree with Senator George. They agree with him also, however, in his opposition to this bill.

The bill takes the wrong approach to the lynching problem. Unlike the antikidnaping bill, it does not provide for co-operation between local and federal law-enforcement authorities, but seeks to impose federal penalties upon local representatives of the people. The provisions of the bill are not only in violation of the right of each state to exercise its own police powers, but are insulting to a free people. It is on this ground that southern opposition is based. The bill, in fact, might easily, by arousing sectionalism, encourage the very crime it seeks to prevent.

The south, with the rest of the nation, will welcome any just, constructive law which promises to wipe from the national records the black smirch of lynch law. Whether lynching occurs in the south, in the north, west or east, it is a degrading, outrageous affront to civilization.

But it will never be ended through such politically inspired, blundering, mistaken legislation as that proposed in the Wagner-Van Nuys bill.

Spartanburg, S C. Journal
November 22. 1937

Constitutionality Doubted

The opposition of southern members of congress to the anti-lynching legislation in congres is mainly based on states' rights. But the proposed bill carries grave doubt as to its consttiutionality. Some of its opponents familiar with constitutional law confidently predict it will not run the gamut of the courts.

Mob violence is as much opposed and denounced in the South as in any other section, and lynchings are by no means confined to the South, as the record clearly shows. After all is said and done relative to states' rights, and even if the proposed law were enacted and approved, convictions of lynchers would depend upon local juries. That means local sentiment determines whether lynching is upheld or abolished. The federal government has no business encroaching upon the police powers and regulations of a state. The clash of authority resulting does not tend to create respect for constituted authority, whether federal or state. Lynching, infamous and unjustifable in any instance, is a state's problem, and progress attained in stamping it out to date justifies the confidence that it will eventually be abolished without interference from the federal government.

Rocky Mount N C. Telegram
November 18, 1937

SOUTHERNERS MISUNDERSTOOD

The filibuster action of southern congressmen in fighting the anti-lynching measure at the national capitol is being misinterpreted in many circles to indicate that the southerners are upholding the ghastly, barbaric business of lynching. As a matter of fact, the southerners are merely trying to show their confidence in their courts and law-enforcement officers and their ability to deal with crime.

The anti-lynching bill, as worded now, would place a heavy responsibility upon the states and municipalities in which the crimes are committed. The southern congressmen do not want to see their communities penalized for the wrongful deeds of a few law violators any more than the representatives from some states having large cities filled with gangsters would want their states and local communities taxed with the costs of kidnapings, bank robberies, etc., which may occur there.

Lynching justly is deplored in the South where most of it occurs and more than one public official and many a newspaper have condemned on many occasions these outrages. The people of the South do not condone those who participate in lynchings. Neither do they uphold the crime itself. Lynchings for the most part are conducted by lawless mobs led by a few irresponsible, cowardly individuals, who could never be classed with the highly developed mobs ruled by efficient, heartless czars in gangland.

Besides the law, if passed, would have little effect upon mobs of the future because it would not be the mobsmen who would have to pay but the honest, law-abiding citizens who have never upheld the crime of lynching. It would seem that those who criticize southerners for opposing the measure are more interested in enforcing a penalty upon the areas where the crimes are committed than in breaking up lynching and punishing those who deal in this crime.

Law-makers at this special session of Congress could be more effective if they concentrate upon the business for which they were called, crossing their other bridges when they come to them.

Roanoke, Va., World News
November 19, 1937

The Lynching Record

Debate in the Senate over a proposed Federal anti-lynching bill seems to require two definitions. In the first place the Gavagan bill, already passed by the House of Representatives, does not make lynching a Federal offense or provide for prosecution of lynching mobs in Federal courts. What it does attempt is prosecution in Federal courts of sheriffs and peace officers who meekly surrender their prisoners. The bill is regarded as more for political effect than as an actual deterrent of lynching.

A second definition needed is just what constitutes the crime of lynching. It does not ordinarily include the racketeer killings of New York or the gangster murders of Chicago. Nor should it include the bona fide shooting of a prisoner attempting to escape. A Minnesota statute defines it as "the killing of a human being by act or procurement of a mob," which would seem to include many forms of mob violence. In a narrower and truer sense, it should be defined as an attack on the law itself—that is, the action of a mob in taking a prisoner away from arresting officers, jails or courts, and executing summary vengeance.

The origin of the term has generally been traced to an extra legal court presided over by Charles Lynch, a justice of the peace in Bedford County, Virginia, during the American Revolution. Lynch's court is said to have undertaken to punish many forms of lawbreaking, some of which could not be reached by legal processes of that day. The term originally was used for summary punishment without legal formality. Many summary hangings took place in the far West in frontier days, including lynching of horse thieves, cattle rustlers and other offenders.

Tuskegee Institute, in Alabama, and the National Association for Advancement of Colored People now compile statistics, the Tuskegee total usually being smaller and more restricted in its definitions.

On the basis of accepted data, 3,679 persons have lost their lives through "lynch law" since January 1, 1882. Of these, 700 were white persons; 2,979 Negroes. According to these records, no lynchings have occurred in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, and ten other States have records almost as clear. There has been no lynching in Virginia in more than ten years.

Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings have occurred in eight States. Mississippi tops the list with 485, the others being Georgia, 469; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241, and Tennessee, 210. While more Negroes than whites have been lynched in the South, the situation is reversed in the West, where Negroes comprised only 12.4 per cent of the 257 individuals lynched in the 17 States of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Through stress of public opinion, the number of lynchings has steadily declined in the last fifteen years, the high year having been 1883, with 158, and low, 1933, with only eight. Nine lynchings were recorded in 1936, and seven through September 30 of 1937. All victims of the last two years have been Negroes, and the lynchings occurred in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The record does not indicate that in a single instance the sheriff or arresting officer has been removed for surrendering his prisoner to a mob, or that in any instance members of the mob have been tried or convicted for the crime of murder of a defenseless and unarmed prisoner.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
November 19, 1937

RESPONSIBLE

While southern senators were waging a more or less hopeless fight on an anti-lynching bill designed to make local communities financially liable for deaths of persons by mobs, klansmen at Miami were staging a night show and northern newspapers were giving lawlessness in Florida and other parts of the south a big play. The raid on the Miami clubhouse was made to order for the advocates of the anti-lynching bill.

Senate investigations of deaths or kidnapings in this section are not unlikely, either.

States and communities should protect persons accused of crime and give them fair trials, and acts committed outside the law should be punished.

Failures in these things are responsible for the demand for national action.

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DAILY PAPERS SCORE FILIBUSTERING

Press Release of the N.A.A.C.P.
12-3-37 New York, N.Y.

New York, Dec. 3.- The daily newspapers of the nation are against the filibustering tactics of the senators who are opposing the anti-lynching bill and are condemning it in strong editorials, a survey by the N.A.A.C.P. revealed today.

Even southern daily papers are against the filibuster. Typical of the expressions from the south is this statement in the Durham, N.C. Herald: "It is too much to expect that it will silence the tongues of filibustering southern senators, but there is timeliness and maybe significance in the report of the American Institute of Public Opinion, published last Sunday, showing a majority sentiment in favor of federal anti-lynching legislation.

"Aside from the Institute poll and aside from the merit of plausibility in the position and argument assumed and offered, southern senators do violence to the principles of democracy they presumed to defend when they resort to filibuster tactics to forestall a vote on a focused issue. It is better that the congress enter questionable judgment than it be prevented from registering a held opinion by a dictatorial minority."

Also from the South from the Lakeland, Fla. Ledger and Star Telegram: "The southern senators and congressmen had as well realize that an anti-lynching bill is in the cards, to be dealt out sooner or later, and accept it as inevitable. Moreover, such a measure may be about the only way of hatling mob violence throughout the country. Our communities and our states have been impotent."

The Chicago Times has the following comment: "Regardless of its merits, its constitutionality or unconstitutionality, the proposed federal anti-lynching bill ought to be disposed of by congress so other business may be attended to.

"The tactics of alleged public-servants in filibustering at this time when the national good calls for orderly and speedy action by congress isn't going to be well received by the public."

And the Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch: "The filibuster is a questionable legislative device at best, but when it is designed to thwart the will of majorities of better than 2-to-1 in both branches of Congress it is more dubious than ever. Now that the Federal anti-lynching bill is to be taken up as the next order of business in the Senate, it will be interesting to see how far southern senators are willing to go in defeating the will of the people."

Andalusia, Ala., Star
November 25, 1937

Senator Dixie Bibb Graves' Maiden Speech

Using as her theme "Find the Truth" Mrs. Dixie Bibb Graves made her maiden speech in the senate Friday and she evidently made a big hit. The Associated Press report shows that she not only acquitted herself with credit, but that her plea made a deep impression. The AP report of her speech follows:

A turbelent filibuster against the anti-lynching bill calmed down for twenty minutes today while the Senate listened attentively to a quiet, emotional talk by Mrs. Dixie Bibb Graves, the new Alabama Senator.

Mrs. Graves' address against the bill, her maiden talk in the Senate, drew applause—a rare compliment in the chamber.

Appointed by Governor Bibb Graves, her husband, to fill the Senate vacancy resulting from the resignation of Justice Hugo L. Black, Mrs. Graves attacked the anti-lynching bill on the ground that it would "strike down the sovereignty of indestructible States."

Attired in a simple black dress piped with white, the Senator used only the simplest gestures during her talk. Some watchers in the gallery thought they saw tears in her eyes when she told the Senate that some advocates of the anti-lynching bill had been misinformed about conditions in the South.

Very much at ease, she stood erectly at her desk. She spoke slowly and distinctly, with an extemporaneous fluency, envied by many a Senator. When she had finished, Senate rules were forgotten in a burst of applause and senators crowded about her with their congratulations.

"During the brief time that I shall be here," she had said, "I should like to make one plea—that you do not press down on the brows of your sister States this brand of shame (the anti-lynching bill)."

"I plead with the members of the Senate," she continued, "to seek and find the truth. You should seek the truth, know the truth and the truth will make you free."

Mrs. Graves said every section of the country had a heritage or extra-legal punishment. The South, by effective law enforcement, aided by an aroused public opinion, reduced lynchings in the last ten years, she said, and in another five years it will be wiped out entirely.

"Isn't that an amazing record?" she asked.

The Senator said she abhorred lynching, but added: "Only a compelling emergency, should cause this body to strike down the sovereignty of indestructible States. The situation is being solved. Would it be wise to change to another remedy—a remedy untried?"

When her short address ended, both Republicans and Democrats clustered about her desk to extend congratulations.

Ft. Pierce, Fla., News & Tribune
November 23, 1937

THE LYNCHING BILL

Biggest issue in Congress, it appears from early oratorical flourishes, is the anti-lynching bill to which the Senate has devoted the first full week of its special session, the Sanford Herald remarks. A strong group of eastern senators has been trying to cram this bill down the necks of Southern senators with the intention, so it is said, of helping to clean up the South's back yard.

While it could be argued that the New England senators would do well to devote their attention to their own trash cans, still we believe that substantial opposition to the bill can be successfully maintained on the strength of the theory that this particular measure instead of helping to reduce lynching in the South may actually increase it, and that under any circumstances it will have no beneficial results.

The anti-lynching bill provides that any county in which a lynching occurs shall be fined $10,000 and that any sheriff from whom a prisoner is taken and later lynched shall be criminally liable. In the event of such lynching the county commissioners of the county in which the lynching occurred would be required by federal law to include in their budget this item of $10,000 and collect the necessary taxes for it from the local taxpayers.

Overlooking the fact that there is no constitutional right given the federal government for fining any city, county, or state regardless of what it does, and that the federal government has no more power to fine a county, than a county has to fine the federal government, we get considerable amusement in speculating on just what would happen if such a bill finally were enacted into law and a subservient Supreme Court allowed it to stick.

Suppose, for instance, that there were a peculiarly vicious crime committed in Seminole county, and a mob were organized for the purpose of lynching the prisoner. Then suppose the taxpayers, aware of the penalties for such an offense and reluctant to pay the fine even under the exigencies of the emergency, finally succeeded in talking the mob into a fair consideration of their pocketbooks, and got them to disperse and go home.

But then suppose that a crowd in Orange county heard about it and decided that such a crime should not go unpunished any longer than it takes to stretch a rope, and aware of the fact that it would be Seminole County taxpayers under any circumstances who would have to pay the fine, got together, came over here, seized the prisoner, and lynched him. Seminole County citizens would be assessed a $10,000 fine just the same even though they did everything they could to prevent the lynching.

And the next time a peculiarly heinous crime occurred in Seminole County, what influence would the taxpayers then have in talking the mob out of hanging the prisoner? There would probably be some sort of agreement reached very shortly whereby Seminole County's prisoners would be taken over to Orange County and strung up there. Then Orange County citizens would have to pay the fine.

There are wonderful possibilities in this federal control of the lynching evil. We can envision all sorts of eventualities from the government's well meaning but ill considered plans to police the South.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
November 24, 1937

LYNCH LAW IN THE UNITED STATES

HIDEOUSLY indefensible as the institution or practice of lynching is, for more than half a century it has played a conspicuous part in the political history of the United States, and is still doing so, having the United States Senate at this time split into a chaos of fiercely warring factions over an anti-lynching bill now before that greatest legislative body in the world.

The origin of the word "lynching" is generally traced to an extra-legal court presided over by Charles Lynch, a justice of the peace, in Bedford county, Va., during the revolution. Lynch's court undertook to punish all types of law-breakers, many unreachable by more formal legal processes of that day. Whipping was the usual sentence, and the word "lynching" originally signified merely a summary whipping executed without customary legal formality.

No data has been compiled as to the number of "lynchings," (in the modern sense of the "killing of a human being by act or procurement of a mob," as simply defined in a Minnesota statute), prior to 1882. Many occurred during reconstruction days in the south, and during the wild and woolly frontier days of the west lynching was the punishment customarily meted out to horse thieves, cattle rustlers and other offenders.

Two organizations now make annual compilations of lynchings, the Tuskegee institute in Alabama and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. That all such statistics are somewhat unreliable is attested by the fact that Tuskegee totals are invariably smaller than those reported by the N. A. A. C. P.

Two factors, which counterbalance one another to some extent, figure in the potential inaccuracy of such statistics. One is that deaths sometimes attributed to lynchings may actually have followed bona fide attempts at escape. On the other hand, many genuine lynchings probably do not find their way into the records.

* * *

On the basis of the most conservative available data, 3,679 individuals lost their lives through "lynch law" in the United States from Jan. 1, 1882, through Sept. 30, 1937. Of these, 700 were white persons; 2,979 were negroes.

No lynchings have ever occurred, according to these records, in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, and 10 other states have records that are almost clean, Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings (72.3 per cent) have occurred in eight states. Mississippi tops the list with 485 recorded lynchings. In order, come Georgia, 469; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241; Tennessee, 210.

* * *

Far more negroes than whites have been lynched in the south, but in the west and midwest the situation is reversed. Negroes comprise only 12.4 per cent of the 257 individuals lynched in 17 states, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. It is probable that many of the "white" victims is these states were Mexicans or Indians.

* * *

The six years, 1882-1887, inclusive, witnessed 752 lynchings, or 20.4 per cent of the 55-year total. The 15-year period, 1922-1937, inclusive, brought only 304 such crimes, or 8.2 per cent of the total. The "high" year was 1883, with 158 lynchings; and 1933 was "low" with only eight. Nine lynchings were recorded in 1936, and seven through Sept. 30, 1937. All the victims in the last two years were negroes, and the 16 lynchings occurred in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The South Atlantic and South Central states account for 88.3 per cent of all recorded lynchings.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to

5681

Need for Anti-Lynching Bill

It was unfortunate for those who oppose the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which has passed the House by a substantial majority, that at the very time when Senator Borah was saying that the South was curbing this crime, two of the most atrocious lynchings in the history of the country took place in Mississippi. Charged with the murder of a Mississippi merchant, and not with the crime against a white woman which was used for so many years as a partial excuse for mob law, two Negroes were taken out and burned, while a howling mob of 400 persons looked on.

The South is duly grateful to Senator Borah and others who opposed the Gavagan bill partly on the ground that this section of the country was getting away from mob violence, but at the same time it should be set forth, to keep the record straight, that lynching is no longer peculiar to the South and perhaps never has been. There has been a reduction in the number of lynchings in the country as a whole over a period of years, but New York city and points in Illinois have furnished some of the most inhuman instances of mob violence against Negroes this country has ever seen.

The proposed bill follows a familiar pattern. It asserts that any state or political subdivision thereof which fails to afford protection to any individual from a mob shall be considered to have deprived such person of due process of law or of equal protection of the laws.

Section 3 declares that any officer blameable for such a crime to be guilty of a felony and subject to a fine not to exceed $5,000 or a prison term of not more than five years.

A clause also provides a term of from five to 25 years for any officer conspiring to deliver prisoners.

Section 4 gives a federal district court jurisdiction in such cases where an officer fails to do his duty or where jurors are so prejudiced that they are not likely to punish mob violence.

Sections 5 and 6 deal with the liability of counties for failure to take action and provide for damages in federal courts.

Representative Rankin, of Mississippi, was one of the most vigorous opponents of this bill and yet it was in his state that the latest of these crimes of mob violence took place.

Representative Hamilton Fish, a Republican, who, nevertheless, has generally been friendly to the South, called attention to the burning of the two Negroes in Mississippi and said the actual test of the ability of the southern states to protect colored citizens from violence is whether the members of the mob are arrested and convicted. If they are, he said, then there is no real need for federal anti-lynching legislation, but if they are not "then even the southern Democrats should vote for the bill."

This view seems to be entirely sound, but in the meantime we may add that thus far the members of the mob engaged in the burning of the Mississippi Negroes certainly have not been "arrested and convicted", and there is little likelihood that they will be.

As we have said, the usual defense of lynching has been that the crime thus summarily avenged has sometimes been an attack upon women, but when one of the most horrible instances of mob violence, with torture, took place a few years ago near Marianna, Fla., a number of the leading women in the state came forward and urged that the good name of the state should be cleared by bringing the members of the mob to justice.

We have great respect for the high authority of men like Representative Wadsworth and Senator Borah who contend that the law would be unenforceable. Senator Borah also holds that it would be unconstitutional. It goes without saying that no good citizen should advocate a law that is unconstitutional, but as the years go by mob violence is not punished in the South or in the North, and if an anti-lynching bill can be framed which will give the federal government power to intervene when and if the states have failed in their obvious duty, which is almost universally the case where a lynching takes place, then such a law should go on the statute books.

The very civilization of the South demands that this blot should be wiped out and that mob violence should be punished.

ALABAMA STATESMEN

Editor The Advertiser:

A Federal anti-lynching bill designed to usurp States' Rights and to destroy constitutional guarantees of freedom was introduced in the present Congress by Representative Gavagan of New York. After debate, this bill was passed in the House on April 15 by a vote of 277 for to 119 against.

To the honor of Alabama, every member of the House from Alabama voted against this unwise measure. To the honor of Alabama, the most notable speech against this bill was made by Congressman Hobbs who now wears worthily the mantle of Senator John Tyler Morgan. He would be an honor to the Senate as he is now an honor to the House.

Congressman Hobbs said in part:

"This bill is a rape of justice. This bill is itself the rope with which this mob would lynch the constitutional guarantees which we have cherished through the years. This bill is not an anti-lynching bill. It is a pro-lynching bill. It will stimulate that dying, almost extinct, disgrace to our civilization—lynching . . .

"All good citizens glory in the progress we have made towards the goal of a land completely cleared of the stigma of lynching. Even one is a disgrace to civilization. All of us feel that way. But while some have been risking their lives to prevent mob violence, others introduce bills. . . .

"There is not a man in this Chamber, not a man in either branch of Congress, who is not against lynching. Scarcely a citizen in the whole nation fails to condemn it. I respectfully submit, therefore, that this resort to mob violence to lynch the Constitution by the passage of this outrageous law should not be sanctioned and that the pending motion should be voted down. (Applause.)

"Does the spirit of mob violence which is driving this bill through this House make it right? NO. It is just as wrong as the hinges of hell; it is just as wrong as any action that was ever taken by a mob, judged by the morals of the situation. You have the votes; you have the power, but you have not the right!" (Applause.)

In these splendid final words, Congressman Hobbs speaks with soberness and with truth "the authentic voice of the best political thought of the English race." Thus Woodrow Wilson praised the immortal Edmund Burke who said likewise:

"The eternal rules of justice and reason are above not only the will of electorates, but above all orders of the State.

"The votes of a majority of the people, whatever their infamous flatterers may teach in order to corrupt their minds, cannot alter the moral any more than they can alter the physical essence of things.

"Neither the few nor the many have a right to act merely by their will in any matter connected with duty, trust, engagement, or obligation."

This is the wisdom of Edmund Burke, of Woodrow Wilson, and of Congressman Hobbs of Alabama.

HOPSON OWEN MURPHEE.

Prattville, Ala., April 19, 1937.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
April 9, 1937

High Courage

During the years that Congressman Frank W. Hancock Jr. has represented this district in Washington, there have been many occasions when he has displayed a brand of courage which has been an inspiration to his friends—even to those who may have disagreed with him.

But at no time has Mr. Hancock shown more real courage, perhaps, than on Wednesday of this week, when he broke the ranks of the "Solid South" in opposition to federal anti-lynching legislation. By that act, Mr. Hancock served notice that, so far as he is concerned, this is one country, in which crime must be attacked as a national problem, without regard to sections.

Mr. Hancock declared that he looked with favor upon legislation that will make lynching a federal offense in the same way that kidnaping has been made a federal offense. There are, of course, two sides to this question.

The affirmative side presents the cold fact that most of the Southern states have failed to enact adequate and effective laws against lynching and are not likely to do so any time soon. Another point is that lynching is no longer a sectional problem but is nation-wide in its scope. Still another is that the federal authorities will move promptly and efficiently to bring mobster murderers to justice, while local officers, in many instances up to their necks in county politics, will often neglect this important duty. We had an example of this in Franklin county, near the capital of our own State, not long ago.

The negative argument is just like the anti-child labor amendment complaint. The law would send federal "snoopers" into the South to attend to the South's business. It would interfere with states' rights.

This argument has been worn pretty thin with relation both to child labor and the proposed anti-lynching legislation. If Congress were to pass an anti-lynching bill, federal G-men who are now being invited very freely to assist local officers in the solution of various crimes would simply go to work on their own accord as they do in interstate kidnaping and other cases. There would be no hullabaloo or particular fan-

fare. The G-men would merely make an effort to run down the mobsters and bring them to justice.

Lynching practices would not hold up long under this arrangement. If the Southern people could be made to see that such a law would react to the benefit of the South, and would mean the sacrifice of nothing save jurisdiction in cases wherein sentiment and prejudice otherwise render fair judgments almost impossible, hardly a doubt exists but that they would approve a federal anti-lynching law.

Anti-Lynching Legislation.

Signatures of 218 Congressmen on a discharge petition sufficed to stir the House Judiciary committee to a favorable report on the Mitchell anti-lynching bill. Notwithstanding the popularity of the petition, however, the committee vote was only 8 to 7. Obviously the proposed legislation, like its predecessors in this field, confronts hard sledding.

The Mitchell bill, as reported to the House, make it a Federal offense for an officer to surrender a prisoner to a mob. It would also provide damages, payable by the county involved, to the family of the victim. Deleted from the bill was a provision making a lynching prima facie evidence of criminal negligence on the part of the local authorities. In this and other respects, the bill differs from earlier bills the constitutionality of which has been subject to doubt. In spirit, however, the Mitchell bill follows closely the many which have been introduced at every session of Congress since the war. Only one of these, Dyer bill of 1922, ever passed the House; Southern Senators disposed of it in the Senate.

The lower chamber has always been the more sympathetic toward anti-lynching proposals. The Senate, with its rules encouraging filibusters is commonly considered the chief obstacle in their path. Thus the Wagner-Van Nuys bill today lies pigeonholed in the Senate Judiciary committee. Like the Mitchell bill, it is designed to avoid the constitutional criticisms which have proven the downfall of earlier measures. Most recent of these was the Costigan-Wagner bill which was reported favorably in the Senate three years ago but which, despite support from President Roosevelt, failed to reach a vote. The next year a motion to take up the bill again was defeated after a week's filibuster.

Supporters of anti-lynching legislation point out that if a governmental unit fails to protect a person from mob violence, or properly to prosecute his assailants, that person has clearly been denied the most fundamental of his constitutional rights. On the other hand it is argued that lynchings already go unpunished in spite of State laws and that if jurors in a State court will not agree to convict it is unlikely that jurors in a Federal court in the same locality would vote otherwise. A more cogent objection is that the worst evils of the reconstruction period might be revived by the precedent of a law encouraging Federal penalization of local communities.

The counter-argument is that enlightened public sentiment, notably in the South, demands Federal intervention as the only solution for an atrocious evil. This is not altogether convincing, however. Wherever public opinion is outraged by lynchings, it can and does insist that existing State laws be enforced. Undoubtedly rising public indignation was a powerful influence in reducing last year's lynchings to 9, as against 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934. The current Congressional debate, whatever its outcome, will be time well spent if it hastens the complete abolition of what can only be regarded as a national disgrace.

What Are We to Infer?

The names of Democratic congressmen from the 12 southern states are conspicuously absent from the anti-lynching discharge petition which will force a record vote on the Gavagan Anti-lynching bill next Monday.

Not a congressman from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas or Virginia signed. Tennessee's two Republican representatives and Kentucky's one Republican were the only exceptions in those two states.

What are we to infer from the position taken by Alabama's congressmen, Boykin, Hill, Steagall, Hobbs, Starnes, Jarman, Bankhead, Sparkman and Patrick? Does their failure to sign the petition indicate that they will vote against the anti-lynching bill when the roll is called next week?

We can not believe that any of the above gentlemen favor lynch law. Yet what are we to assume? Is it possible that they believe a majority of their constituents would directly or indirectly sanction mob violence? Or is it a question of little courage? If the latter be the case then ours is a sad state of affairs when such a small minority can wield so large an influence.

Alabama has had but one lynching in two or three years and we are as proud of that record as any citizen. But there can be no excuse for even one lynching and any congressman who stands in the way of any move which would tend to discourage mob murder selects his own label and his own company.

Jefferson County, and many others for that matter, does not need the threat of penalty to make her officials and law enforcement officers more conscious of their duty on the question of mob violence. Her record speaks for itself. For that reason they need have no fear of the Gavagan bill.

The measure itself may not discourage lynching. That cannot be told without trial. But the shadow of the long arm of the Federal Government does have a sobering influence and its courts do command respect even among thieves.

There is no defense for mob rule and equally none for the man who aids and abets directly or indirectly, its violence.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
April 15, 1937

THE TORCH LYNCHING

The cause of those who believe that it is the obligation of the state and not the national government to protect the individual from mob action received a great setback Tuesday afternoon. The Mississippi torch lynching was a brutal, primitive and disgusting thing within itself, but it was extremely unfortunate that it had to come just as the house was debating a federal anti-lynch law.

This paper, mindful of the facility with which southern states have circumvented other federal statutes aimed at breaking down white supremacy, believes that a federal anti-lynch law would do little beyond antagonize the southern governments and breed further disrespect for law. Virginia has had notable success in doing away with mob action and has given the other southern states an excellent example to follow. However, a federal law, regardless of its supporters, will be regarded with suspicion and may delay effective control for many years.

We admit that this perverseness is hardly laudatory, but it is more or less a human trait and one especially prominent in the history of relations between southern states and the federal government since the middle of the last century.

So it is that we particularly regret the action of the crazed Mississippi mob. It will undoubtedly lead to federal action and a consequent further muddling of a problem which can be solved only through local initiative.

In Racketeria

A glance at the vote for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill discloses that it was supported by practically all the representatives in Congress hailing from those congressional districts in which mobster rule has most completely superseded constitutional state government, and the monopoly of the gangster racket has displaced economic equality.

The constitutional basis of the bill is the first section of the Fourteenth Amendment in which occur these words: "Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any persons within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Just try to operate a handbook, a saloon or a night club in Chicago or New York under that "equal protection of the laws" gag and see how long you remain open. In many parts of those cities, and in many other cities, the operation of a laundry, a cleaning establishment, a fish market, a restaurant, a labor union, and countless other legitimate enterprises, cannot be carried on under "equal protection of the laws," and many more men have been deprived of "life, liberty or property" than have ever been lynched. There are quite a number of those urban belts in which the actual law is Sicilian lynch law, not American law.

If we are going in for the enforcement of the Fourteenth Amendment by federal penalties laid upon local communities and upon lax local officials, the place to begin is where the maximum violations of that amendment take place. It is conceivable that such federal intervention might even make those parts of America habitable for Americans. At present the American of colonial stock or the earlier migrations is a zoological curiosity in such areas, and for an American to try to do a local business there—why, it just isn't done, you know.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5682

When Votes Are Trumps the Game's More Interesting

An analysis of the recent House vote on the Gavagan federal antilynching bill shows that except in two or three instances, no Representative from States in which we have and exercise the right to vote as we think, opposed the enactment of the measure.

While there were one or two New Yorkers and Pennsylvanians who voted "nay," and while Missouri split 5-50 in the voting—five for and five against—the solons above the Mason and Dixon line, for the most part, registered in the "yea" column.

To show the effect of an enlightened and untrammeled electorate, seven West Virginia Representatives voted for the bill, while an equal number of Representatives from Virginia voted against it.

There's a reason in the fact that every Southern State, from Virginia to Texas, voted almost solidly for the continuance of lynching, for that's exactly what a vote against the Gavagan bill meant.

In his "Memoirs and Letters," Charles Sumner, noted statesman and abolitionist, wrote:

"Let the freedman vote, and he will have in himself, under the law, a constant, ever present, self-protecting power.

"Where the master knows he may be voted down, he will know that he must be just, and everything is contained in justice.

"To him who has the ballot, all things shall be given—protection, opportunity, education, a homestead. [He might have added also, a vote for an antilynching bill.]

"The ballot is the Horn of Abundance, out of which overflow rights of every kind, with corn, cotton, rice, and all the fruits of the earth . . ."

How well do these memorable words apply in the present crisis. With the Gavagan bill facing a stiff fight in the Senate, it is imperative that those Senators from States where we have an effective voting population be continually reminded of the obligation which they have to assure the success of the measure.

WRITE, OR BETTER YET, WIRE YOUR SENATORS TODAY, REMINDING THEM OF THIS OBLIGATION.

Even the gentlemen from the Deep South will find themselves changing their tune once the colored citizens of those States acquire and exercise the right to vote. And it is hardly presumptuous to say that many of their ilk may find themselves shut out of the Congressional picture forever.

Congressman Sam Hobbs's Views On The Gavagan Force Bill

Editor The Advertiser: 4-28-37
Please give me space enough to reply to the communication published in your edition of Sunday, April 25, signed "A. S. W."

"A. S. W." bewails "generalities", and "was impressed only by the fact that Mr. Hobbs gave no definite or—significant reason in defense of his stand", yet he, himself, notes that only a part of my speech was quoted by Col. Murfee in the article criticized!

My learned and beloved friend, Col. Hopson Owen Murfee, did me honor to expound my desert when he wrote his article "Alabama Statesmen". I am deeply grateful. I gather from his article that he had read my speeches in Congress on the subject of the Gavagan bill, which appear in the Congressional Record of April 12 and 13, 1937. I am equally certain that "A. S. W." has not. They are of public record, available to anyone. If "A. S. W." will refer to them in his local library, or give me his name and address so that I may send them to him, I think he will find his complaints pointless.

Col. Murfee announced his condemnation of the Gavagan bill—the so-called anti-lynching bill—the fact that it was passed by the House of Representatives, 277 to 119, and that all of the Representatives of Alabama had voted against it. He then quoted a part of what I had said in the debates, and also a fragment of a speech of Edmund Burke, both, to the point that majorities are not necessarily right. This, as I understood Col. Murfee, was the one thought he wished to emphasize and commend. He had no idea of presenting a constitutional argument, nor a full discussion of the demerits of the bill.

"A. S. W." either misses or ignores this plain meaning, and goes on to ask questions and make observations, which are as old as this controversy over the proposed Federal intrusion into the admitted realm of the police powers of the sovereign States. These have been answered in every debate of this subject since 1892. The most recent of these debates is no exception. But as "A. S. W." apparently prefers not to read the Record, I shall briefly, respond to his challenge.

First, however, let me say that the unconstitutionality of these so-called anti-lynching bills is no longer debatable. The Supreme Court of the United States has clearly passed on that point in the case of the United States vs. Harris, 106 U. S. Reports, page 629. This was a lynching case from Tennessee and this decision holds a Federal statute of exactly the same import as the pending bill, unconstitutional and void. The Riggins and Powell cases (which incidentally arose at Huntsville, Ala.) were also lynching cases and the courts reached in them the same conclusion as announced in the Harris case. So unless the Supreme Court reverses itself this pending piece of political demogoguery is headed for the graveyard of void acts.

"Why is the bill a rape of justice?" "A. S. W." asks. One of many answers is that punishment imposed without regard to guilt or innocence, does violence to every principle of justice. That is rape. This iniquitous bill does that—and much more! I quote from my speech in Congress (April 13, 1937, pages 4417 and 4418, Congressional Record): "Another outstanding feature of the Gavagan bill is that it provides for the punishment of counties by fines of not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000 as liquidated damages wholly without regard to the guilt or innocence of the citizen or officials of the counties. If every officer of a county had been killed by the mob while the officers were trying to protect a prisoner and if no citizen of the county had participated in the mob, nevertheless, such a county would, under the terms of the Gavagan bill, be fined up to $10,000 if that mob, after killing all the officers of the county, lynched the prisoner. Preposterous, but true. Equally abhorrent is the provision of the Gavagan bill punishing a county wherein a victim is seized by a mob and removed to another county before being lynched. This bill says that such a county, although not a one of its officers or citizens know of the seizure, may be fined up to $10,000.

It so happens that the dearest spot on earth to me, my home county, has had only one lynching within its borders in its long history. There we have 58,000 people living, 14,000 of whom are white. Yet we have no race trouble and no lynchings. The only lynching ever to occur in Dallas County, Ala., took place some 46 years ago, when a mob of infuriated citizens of another county pursued its victim into Dallas County and there lynched him without the knowledge or consent or participation of a single citizen of Dallas County in that crime. Yet, under the terms of the Gavagan bill, Dallas County would have to pay a fine up to $10,000 in such a case."

"A. S. W.'s" next question is: "In what State has a member or members of a lynching mob been indicted, convicted and executed for usurping State's rights, for committing murder?" The answer is that lynching is a crime which is not easy to detect and punish, but convictions have been had and punishment imposed on eight per cent of the cases. This is not a creditable percentage, but is said to be correct. I know of no case in which the death penalty has been imposed. But what, may I ask, has this question to do with the so-called anti-lynching bill? This bill doesn't pretend to touch that problem. It does not provide punishment for any mob, nor for any member of one.

His next question is: "Has Mr. Hobbs risked his life to rescue a victim or prevent mob violence. My answer is, yes! And in my speech I cited one case in particular as follows:

"There are plenty of words condemning lynching, both from the proponents and opponents of this bill. There are none condemning the causes of lynching. I remember the case of Clyde Thomas, who had been a servant in the household of a citizen of Alabama from the time a baby girl was born until she became 16 years of age. He plotted his crime; prepared the place in a plum thicket. He attempted his crime twice, but was thwarted by the fact the child had playmates with her. But on the third attempt he raped and killed her. Yet we risked our lives to save him from the noose of the mob, for the noose of the law. After all is said, without any extenuation whatever for the crime of lynching—there can be none—when a guilty man is lynched, the mob has done what the law says should be done! It has done it in an illegal and criminal way, but the end is the same. But no law ever said that a child should be raped." This rape and

...dication of the principles for which we joy to fight—State's rights and a government of law under the Constitution."

SAM HOBBS,
Representative, Fourth Alabama District.

Selma, Ala.
Gulfport, Miss. Gulf Coast Guide
April 23, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

THE passage of the anti-lynching bill in Congress would be a tragic thing for the South, to which section the law is directed.

There are conditions under which mobs in this country will take the law into their own hands, and no federal anti-lynching law can stop them. The truth of the matter is that if the anti-lynching law is passed and enforced there are parts of the South where snooping federal agents would be lynched as quickly as anyone else.

The rest of the country will never fully understand the South's side of the race question. The passage of the law is, however, an emphatic reminder of what we may expect in this part of the country when the president's supreme court measure passes.

Unmindful of it, perhaps, the party in power is promoting the spirit of civil war in this country.

Indianalo, Miss. Tocsin
April 22, 1937

The anti-ly...ning bill, which passed the House last week, will hardly become a law, at this session at least. Its passage by the House was partly a psychological matter, coming on the heels of a Southern lynching, and long before it reaches a vote in the Senate the fever of many of its proponents will have subsided. The south, or any other part of the country, can no more control lynchings, when the people are aroused, than it can prevent overflows when the Mississippi river goes on a rampage.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 28, 1937

Lynching Legislation And The South

WE commend to you an article appearing elsewhere on this page by Mark Sullivan, Washington correspondent for The New York Herald-Tribune.

Mr. Sullivan, an Eastern writer writing for an Eastern journal, has become increasingly sympathetic with the problems which confront the conservative South, and his commentary on the Gavagan anti-lynching bill should be of particular interest to all men and women who

...are interested in preserving a white Democratic Party, at least in Alabama.

In asserting that "if the federal government can do this (adopt an anti-lynching bill) there isn't anything it can't do within a state," Mr. Sullivan should go a little way toward stirring us from our lethargic attitude toward the Gavagan measure.

There can be little doubt that Jim Farley sold out the party last year, and left the South to foot the bill in the form of federal anti-lynching legislation, but we find no reason why our representatives and senators should be bound to a contract to which they had no part in making.

We do not share Mr. Sullivan's pessimism over the anti-lynching bill in the Senate. We feel that it can be defeated, and defeated with ease, if our Southern senators refuse to be compromised. It is only through an aroused public opinion, however, that we can impress upon these senators the importance of defeating this measure, and it is the duty of every man who believes in a White Democracy to lend his weight to this pressure.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 1, 1937

Unconditional Surrender or Fight

When the Northern "Democrats" in the house voted 189 for the Gavagan "anti-lynching" bill they put the Southern Democrats who voted 118 to one against it on notice that they purpose to draw the sectional line against the South on Southern questions and that they have the majority. The Northern Republicans with a few exceptions like James Wadsworth, Jr., voted with them.

These Northern Democrats represent the real New Dealers—the "liberals" or "radicals" who believe in "Socialization" and would destroy the states—together with the Tammany machines of the great cities and the negroes who in those cities have numerous votes and are often the balance of power in elections.

In the Northern and Western states are great numbers of substantial people who have no sympathy with these sectional politicians and are quite willing that the Southern states govern themselves. They are a minority—but they represent the same minority whose support made possible the return of the white Southern people to power in their states in 1876.

The Southerners in congress have their choice before them. They can accept the control and dictation of the Northern Democrats, and, thereby, obtain offices and allotments in number and amount that seem good to the Northern majority. That would be unconditional surrender.

Or they can fight, defend their states.

Glass, Byrd, Bailey, Smith and perhaps a dozen others excepted, the Southerners in congress are distrusted and held in contempt by the Northern New Dealers. When Stanley High said as much in The Saturday Evening Post he wrote the exact truth, nothing but the truth.

Men like Secretary Roper, Senators Robinson, Byrnes, Harrison, know this perfectly well, and equally well they know that President Roosevelt cannot protect them and the South without repudiating his Northern supporters, including John Lewis, Duffie, and the negro contingent.

Bennett Champ Clark, senator of Missouri, who is still young and should have a future, understands. Unless we miss our guess he will fight.

Harlem, Ga., News
April 29, 1937

Anti-Lynch Bill

Under the anti-lynching bill which has passed the lower house of Congress, if an arresting officer is overpowered and a prisoner is forcibly taken from his custdoy, that officer will be guilty of a felony and subject to a severe fine and penalty.

If a lynching should occur within a county, the county itself is liable to the family of the person lynched to the extent of ten thousand dollars damages, collectible under a Federal Court decree.

The south doesn't want an anti-lynching bill.

The passage of such a law will not stop lynching any more than the prohibition law prohibited the drinking and selling of liquor.

"Bootleg" murder would only supplant lynchings.

Savannah, Ga., Press
May 3, 1937

AGAINST PROPOSED LAWS.

The grand jury of the Superior Court of Tatthall county, in its general presentments, as read to Judge Grice a few days ago, handled two topics of national interest very concisely but effectively and convincingly. We quote:

We desire to go on record as opposing the passage of the pending anti-lynch law and the child labor law. We are of the opinion that both are unconstitutional, and believe this to be another effort to deal a death blow to states' rights.

We are quite sure the thinking people of not alone Tattnall county but all sections of Georgia will give approval to these sentiments presented so clearly and yet so tersely.

There is no occasion for the passage of a national anti-lynching law. It would not change the temper of the people in any section of the United States and lynchings would go on in all sections of the country just as they do now under sufficient provocation.

And as for the matter of child labor, the state is well qualified to protect the child in Georgia from the slavery of long hours and inadequate pay and the neglect of a child's education. This situation is getting better in Georgia all the time and there is no reason for national interference.

The fight against the anti-lynching law must be made in the Senate. We regret the wife of the President of the United States has expressed her belief in and her support of proposed legislation. We hope the President will not lend encouragement to its passage by the Senate, and we trust the same influence of leading Southern senators, that has prevented the enactment of a similar law in the past, will prevail when the showdown comes in the upper national house on this measure.

Lynchings-1937
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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 22, 1937

Press Comments Of The Day

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

THE only plausible justification for the apathy shown by Southern representatives in Congress when the Gavagan anti-lynching bill was under considerations was the belief that the measure is palpably unconstitutional, and therefore it was unnecessary for modern spokesmen of the South to make the dramatic and spectacular fight against this kind of federal invasion into internal state affairs that was made by Senator Morgan and his colleagues in the days of old. Of course the Southern delegations voted against the Gavagan bill unanimously even though it passed the house by a vote of 276 to 119, but there was no evidence of that determined and concerted resistance which is expected to characterize a measure aimed so directly at the South's independence and good faith in dealing with an old problem.

Lynching is deplored in the South just as earnestly as anywhere else, but the Southern states now and ever, will insist upon preservation of their rights to deal with the subject just as other intrastate crimes are dealt with, and without direction from Washington. The Gavagan bill would impose fines upon counties in which lynchings occur, the fines to be paid to the families of the victims. So able a constitutional lawyer as Senator Borah has contended from the beginning that this bill is unconstitutional, that any Supreme Court would pronounce it so, and that it is useless for Congress to waste its time in enacting a measure as definitely not in accord with the organic law.

That is the South's prime objection to such legislation. It is an invasion of the state by the central government; it places certain crimes committed within the state in the hands of the federal courts and takes away jurisdiction belonging of right to the state courts. Furthermore, it is quite apparent that bills such as this Gavagan measure are designed primarily for political purposes. Neither the South nor the West, nor even New York, or anywhere else that a lynching may occur, desires to have the federal government given jurisdiction over the punishment of offenses committed within state borders. This Gavagan bill not only would punish the counties where in a lynching occurs but would punish innocent persons who as taxpayers might have known nothing of the crime and could have done nothing to prevent it.

In spite of the deplorable sporadic acts of violence that occur from time to time, remarkable progress has been made in this country in reducing lynching, largely because the crime for which lynching is resorted to is so much less frequent. Meanwhile it is unfortunate to see the subject become a political football in Washington in the face of declarations by the greatest constitutional lawyers that the proposed legislation cannot be sustained by the courts.—The Alabama Journal.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
April 21, 1937

BEHIND THE SCENES IN WASHINGTON

(By RODNEY DUTCHER)

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Chances for a federal anti-lynching act are good unless the anticipated filibuster of a few Southern senators is supported by obstruction from the Senate leadership and apathy among the measure's friends.

Assuming passage, there will be one deficiency in the law if it follows the model of the Gavagan bill passed by the House. For the Gavagan bill applies its penalties only in cases where a prisoner has been taken into custody before being seized by a mob.

It carries an obvious incentive for local officers, discovering the possibility of mob action and fearing federal prosecution, to refrain from arresting suspects and then leave them to the mob.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill, now with the Senate Judiciary Committee, extends to cover all cases of persons accused, suspected or convicted of crime, who are lynched or injured by mobs in denial of trial by the regular process of law.

The Gavagan bill, on the other hand, provides—as the Senate bill does not—for federal prosecution of members of lynching mobs in cases where local or state authorities have not acted within 30 days.

Supporters of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill think they can bring enough pressure on the majority leaders, Senator Joe Robinson of Arkansas, and Pat Harrison of Mississippi, to give the measure a place on the calendar sooner or later. They will then be faced by a filibuster which will be led by "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina. Smith, Tom Connally of Texas, and Josiah Bailey of North Carolina, headed the filibuster which two years ago was used to sidetrack the Costigan anti-lynching bill. Smith is given to repeating that such legislation is a crime against Southern womanhood. His vehemence is counted as an asset by supporters of the bill.

WANT COLORED VOTE

In the background will be the desire of Northern Democratic leaders to hold the colored vote, which deserted the Republican party almost en mass in the last election. Most opposition speeches in the House were based on the Gavagan bill's alleged unconstitutionality, violation of state rights and interference with a purely Southern problem.

Aside from the difference previously noted, the House and Senate bills provide that officers who fail to make diligent efforts to prevent prisoners from being lynched shall be subject to a $5,000 fine and five years in prison; that officers who conspire with mobs may be imprisoned from five to 20 years; and that any county in which a prisoner is injured or killed by a mob may be sued by the victim's family for from $2,000 to $10,000.

SAY SENTIMENT INCREASED

Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People say 60 senators have promised to vote for the Wagner-Van Nuys measure, and that sentiment for an anti-lynching law has vastly increased, especially in the South and among Southern women's organizations.

Among congressmen voting against the Gavagan bill were the three wealthy land owners who, as members of the House Agriculture Committee, were instrumental in burying the administration program to aid tenant farmers and share croppers—Kleberg of Texas, Coffee, of Nebraska, and Fulmer of South Carolina.

This coincidence is noteworthy because the N. A. A. C. P. recently showed that eight of the lynching victims of 1935 and 1936 had been accused solely of union activity in the organization of sharecroppers and tenants. Others were lynched for fighting with white men, drunkenness or disrespect.

Selma, Ala. Times
April 16, 1937

HOBBS AGAIN TO THE FRONT

Congressman Sam Hobbs of the Fourth Alabama District was paid another outstanding compliment by his colleagues in the House when he was selected to make the only speech in opposition to the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which would be particularly obnoxious and unjust to the South. In this connection it has been pointed out that this is the second time recently that the Fourth District Representative has been thus honored.

It will be recalled that Hobbs was selected by the House to conduct the investigation of charges brought against Judge Ritter of Florida—an inquiry that resulted in the impeachment of the judge for misconduct in office and brought praise to the Alabama Congressman for his part in bringing out the damaging evidence in the case.

And in his speech against the anti-lynching measure, Congressman Hobbs acquitted himself with equal distinction and added further to his already enviable record in the House. In opposing the bill, he stressed the point that the only remedy for the lynching evil lies in enlightenment of the people and in creating sentiment against the crime of mob murder. He also emphasized the fact that the South is making progress toward the solution of the problem and cited figures to show the decrease in lynchings in the last half century.

Development of public opinion in the Southern states against lynching should be more rapid in the next few years with the growth in educational facilities. But it is necessary that negroes as well as whites be provided the opportunity to obtain an education and be thereby raised to a higher standard, which will tend to deter them from the crimes that have caused mob action in the past. Records show lynchings have occurred more often in communities in which a low average in intelligence and learning prevails, proving that a more wholesome attitude on the part of the citizens is the thing most needed to combat the mob spirit. They likewise attest the fact that education for negroes has a direct and important effect on the amount of crime. For example, it is said that no graduate of Tuskegee Institute has ever been convicted of an unjust measure to this praiseworthy proposal, or ion, an unmoral measure."

The Georgia delegation vigorously opposed crime and equally impressive results have been some other plan of similar merit, t
shown by other schools for colored students in the form a service to the South that wo
South. do something constructive in the way
Therefore, the federal government really can aid the cause in which they profess to ha
materially in eliminating lynchings by contributing interest.—Anniston Star.
to the education of both white and colored in the Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
Southern states. Federal funds for the schools in April 17, 1937
the South will enable us to make greater progress
ward the development of an enlightened citizen-
ship that is of such vital necessity in keeping us
clear of racial troubles that have resulted in dis-
graceful acts of lawlessness in the past.

UNCALLED-FOR LEGISLATION

The passage by the house of congress of
the Gavagan anti-lynching bill is regrettable.
It is to be hoped that the measure will meet
the defeat it deserves at the hands of the
senate.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, correctly brands
the bill "an effort to force through congress
an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opin-

...ase, of the growing tendency to force federal interference into affairs which are strictly matters for the states themselves to handle. The bill strikes at one of the most fundamental of state's rights, the right to exercise exclusive police power over its own citizens. Federal policing of crime in any state is a dangerous innovation and one that could easily lead to utter submergence of the states as governmental entities.

There can be no doubt that the charge, made by southern opponents of the bill, that it is aimed at the south, is true. Though the black record of lynching includes many mob crimes committed in other parts of the country, it is self-evident that, had there been no lynchings in the south, the measure would not have been introduced and would not have received the strange support of a temporary coalition of northern Democrats with the Republican minority.

That lynching is a frightful crime which cannot, on any grounds, be condoned, no intelligent person will deny. That it is a shameful blot upon modern civilization is not open to argument.

But, emphatically, the cure does not lie through federal interference with the sacred rights of the states. The cure, as for all social evils, lies in education, and is evident, to the unprejudiced, that education is steadily wiping out the evil.

The records reveal that, since the peak of 1892, the number of lynchings in the country as a whole has decreased 5,000 per cent. The greater part of this improvement has taken place in the south.

Occasionally we are still shocked and horrified by the report of another mob outrage, but they become steadily less frequent. Public condemnation grows stronger and the day has passed when any man may safely boast that he was a member of a lynching mob.

Education is curing the evil. Education will perfect that cure in due time. Federal assumption of a duty that is emphatically a duty of the state is not the prescription for the disease.

It is to be hoped the senate will promptly scotch this evil proposal. If anti-lynching legislation is needed, it is certainly not of the type of the Gavagan bill.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
April 17, 1937

News, Views and Reviews

CONGRESSMAN PAUL BROWN ON THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

"Addressing the Senate in 1935, Senator Wagner, ...author of a bill almost identical ...under consideration, cited fig... marked decline in the ...United States ...since 1892," said the Senator, "and 200 since 1922." How simple arithmetic would show that during the 40 years from 1882 to 1922, during which time the country's population doubled, the average was about 120 lynchings a year, but in the 13 years from 1922 to 1935 this average had declined to less than 22 a year. As a matter of fact, the whole trend of the record has been downward since the 1882 date, and in 1934 the number was 15, in 1935 there were 20 lynchings, and in 1936 there were 8. Does not this seem to indicate that State and local law-enforcement agencies are handling this problem with effect?

"Some advocates of this measure have called attention to the action of various States in adopting antilynching legislation, particularly Virginia, who passed an antilynching law in 1928, stating there has been no lynching in that State since the passage of the law, and that the State of Virginia has suffered no loss by reason of the fact that it, by its own hands, has wiped out this form of lawlessness.

"Now, this is a very outspoken admission that the States themselves are entirely competent to handle their own police problems, regardless of whether or not there is any constitutional inhibition to Federal interference. And Virginia is not the only State in which so-called antilynching laws exist. But every State has a law against murder, and it does not matter whether it comes from the poisoner's vial, the machine gun of the gangster, or the rope of a lynch mob, it is still murder, punishable according to the laws of the State in which is it committed.

"The people of my state do not believe in lynching, notwithstanding she has been denounced in severe terms. The courts, the press, the pulpit, and the bar are all opposed to lynching in all of its forms. However, there is not a father in the South who would not infinitely prefer to see his daughter dead than for her to become the victim of a Negro rapist; and, of course, under these circumstances it is not human for parents or relatives to control their feelings, and I feel that parents and relatives in all other sections of this country would have the same feeling for the helpless victims of such brutes.

"I dare say that no one in this House condones the illegal use of "third degree" methods, for which police of large cities have become notorious. But would anyone here suggest that this particular scandal would be sufficient reason for adoption of Federal legislation to supervise the police of our large northern cities? The 'third degree' is manifestly illegal and a violation of the constitutional rights of citizens. And it is not perpetrated by an outraged citizenry. It is perpetrated by peace officers themselves.

"If this Congress undertakes to set up Federal supervision over State statutes applying to one particular form of crime, then this or succeeding Congresses could pass laws providing for the supervision of any other or all State statutes. This bill, if enacted into law, can easily become an opening ...to complete domination of State and local laws by the Federal Government.

"So we come to the real point of the issue. The record shows that under State jurisdiction lynchings are becoming fewer and further apart, even though the population of this country has been increasing very rapidly. But in the past a great number of the lynchings which have taken place in Southern States have been of Negroes. In the meantime some of the large cities have developed big Negro populations, groups sufficient in size to become political considerations. These groups have been organized by politicians and their votes have become important factors in local and even national elections.

"I submit that these facts speak for themselves. The practice of lynching is almost entirely disappearing from existence in this country ,and this has been brought about by local law enforcement within the states. The sudden demand for Federal antilynching legislation can, therefore, be little more than an emotional appeal to large groups of Negro voters in the North. I for one know that the Federal Government cannot improve upon the law enforcement practiced by the States, and I am confident that this proposed usurpation of States' rights was never contemplated by the Constitution. The real friends of the Negroes are still in the South, and everyone, with the exception of a few political leaders, will admit this."—Congressional Record.

Three Southerners

Rep. Maury Maverick of Texas and Reps. Taylor and Reece of Tennessee were the only congressmen from the South who voted for the Federal antilynching bill. We speak here of the South as comprising Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

We are sure that the 99 other congressmen who represent the Southern states do not condone lynching, and that their votes against the bill were not motivated by any desire to protect lynchers. We are sure that they and a vast preponderance of their constituents look upon these mob crimes with horror.

Which seems a strange picture of statecraft. Since many of the lynchings that occur in this country occur in the South, it would seem reasonable to believe that the respectable elements in our section should welcome whatever help the Federal Government could give in stamping out the outrages which bring shame upon us.

The three gentlemen named above are the only Southern congressmen who, on the basis of the record, are above suspicion of worrying about what the not-so-respectable elements may think on the subject of lynching.

Today the majority viewpoint in the South condemns lynching and agrees with that vigorous Southern journal, The Richmond Times-Dispatch when it says editorially:

"The latest sample of what is sometimes called states' rights is the torture and murder of two Negroes by a Mississippi mob. Southern senators and representatives who have been vociferously opposing Federal anti-lynching legislation on the floors of Congress, on the ground that it would interfere with local self-government, had better produce some evidence that self-government is operative in certain parts of the South. They seem greatly concerned for the future of states' rights...but they are scarcely concerned at all for states' duties."

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
April 18, 1937

Keeping the Record Straight

We oppose lynching and believe the federal government should help bring mobsters to justice, just as the G-men are running down the kidnapers. But there are some features of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill as passed by the House last week, which we do not favor.

We do not believe any member of Congress should vote for this bill so long as it contains any provision to inflict punishment, either by fine or imprisonment, upon local officers who are overpowered by mobs and are forced to turn prisoners over to them.

No good can possibly come from this feature of the Gavagan bill, and much harm might result. In fact, we are convinced that it would hinder rather than aid law enforcement throughout the country.

It stands to reason that if a sheriff or other local officer knew that he would be subject to severe penalties if a mob should take a prisoner away from him, he would be slow to arrest any criminal in danger of mob violence.

Local officers should be encouraged to arrest criminals. But this bill would tend to discourage them in many instances in the performance of the duties of their office.

The most the federal government should do in dealing with the problem of lynching is to aid the local officers in apprehending and bringing members of the mobs into court to face trial for their crimes.

The Senate probably never will pass the Gavagan bill in any form. It certainly will not approve it without vital amendments, one of which would be to strike out the section inflicting punishment upon local officers.

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Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
April 10, 1937

Just Another Bloc?

Representative Hatton Sumners, Dallas, Texas, Democrat, has branded the 58 anti-lynching bills now before Congress as unconstitutional and affording "an inexcusable, dangerous extension of federal power not calculated to be helpful to the cause professed."

Without arguing about that, we would like to see some congressman get up on his hind legs and tell why there are 58 anti-lynching bills pending, but then everybody knows why. There are 58 congressional districts in which incumbent congressmen hope to get some votes by adding another factor to the complex game of racial politics by which most northern urban congressmen get elected to office. It is one of the grim jests of history that in the very areas of America where racial realities are most fervently denied, the real basis of politics and government is the exploitation of race consciousness.

It is doing the negro citizen no service to make him a pawn in this game of machine politics. It is in fact an affront to his citizenship to ask him to become just another alien racial bloc in gangster government.

It is the northern urban regions that stand to be harmed by anti-lynch laws, not the south. Lynching here is becoming an anachronism, at the same time that anarchism tempered by gang rule is becoming the actual mode of government in the urban north.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
April 14, 1937

Most of the newspapers in the South heartily hate Federal anti-lynching bills that would, among other things, collect a fine from the county in which a lynching occurs; they don't like the proposed Youth Control Amendment which would take from parents and give to Congress control over their children under eighteen years of age; they oppose the spectacle of sit-down strikers seizing private property; they see great danger in Roosevelt's avowed determination to stack the Supreme Court with sycophants who would endorse his every desire to regiment the country. Yet these newspapers and most of the people who read them continue to shout hallelujah at the mention of the Roosevelt name. And the explanation is easy: Federal hand-outs in the form of patronage. Which means that Americans, like Italians and Germans and Russians, will readily sell their liberties to any convincing spell-binder.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
April 18, 1937

Carolina Comment

THE WRONG BOAST

(Charlotte News)

"This bill," declared Representative Zeb Weaver, of the eleventh North Carolina district, yesterday with reference to the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. "is an insult and a challenge to the sovereignty of every state in the Union. I want to place in the record what we have done in North Carolina. I have before me the statutes. They were passed in 1893 and they provide rigid laws against lynching. Under those laws we have made a most magnificent record."

There is no gainsaying that North Carolina's lynching record, while perhaps not magnificent, is creditable. The old custom of lynching has almost gone out of existence. The vestige of it that remains hardly requires the attention of the central government.

But it wasn't laws that did it; not a bit of it. First of all, it was enlightenment, let us call it, and growing tolerance of the one race for the other: Those qualities combined to reduce the number of lynching attempts. And on those occasions, more or less rare, when mobs formed, it was the stout nerve of police officers that balked them. A sheriff with the guts to defend his prisoner is worth all the laws there are.

And in recent lynchings, the law and the courts, when finally they were invoked, displayed a shameful inability to function. For instance, though the Negro Govan Ward was taken in broad daylight from the sheriff of Franklin county and lynched, nobody ever was punished for it. The same inability to apply the laws was palpable in the Pender county lynching two years before. For those reasons, whatever credit North Carolina deserves for not stringing up its bestial criminals belongs solely to the people and the braver officers. State courts have failed miserably.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
April 18, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

While lynching is looked on by many as an exclusive southern practice, any anti-lynching Federal law might be expected to have cause for operation in all 48 States save Maine, Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut—the only States in the Union that never have had a lynching since records were kept permanently, beginning in 1882.

However, before 1882, there were some legal lynchings at Salem, and among the Dutch New Yorkers some offenders were burned without benefit of clergy in those good old days, and an accurate record likely would show that some community now within each of these seven States at one time or the other indulged in what many northerners now believe is a southern pastime.

Since 1882, we have lynched in this country about 4,700 persons, of which more than 1,300 were white and more than 3,300 were negroes. Every State save the foregoing seven participated in the orgies. Until 1885, more whites were lynched than blacks, and it was not until 1924 and 1925 that there were no white lynchings, which resumed following those years. The best since 1882 was 1932, when but two white and six blacks were lynched. The worst year was 1892, when 69 whites and 162 blacks met death at the hands of mobs. For the last decade, lynchings have averaged 17 a year, and since 1882, the average has been about 87 a year.

Out of the total lynchings that have taken place since 1882, eleven southern States were responsible for more than 2,800, and the rest of the country for more than 1,800, or in the ratio of 14-9. However, if to this lynching record were added the deaths of those who died in race riots—in New York, Chicago, in Washington, D. C., and in other territory not strictly southern, it would be found that the North has been as flagrant as the South in this respect. There are few race riots in the South.

The House of Representatives has passed what is known as the Gavagan Act, aimed against lynching, by a vote of 276 to 119. It is now in the Senate. Congressman Gavagan is a New York Democrat, having a large Harlem constituency.

That the Federal government has any more to say in the way of law about lynchings than it has about the common run of homicides, is not clear. Senator William E. Borah characterizes the measure as unconstitutional, but in the light of last Monday's decisions in the Supreme Court, it may not be. The rope used no doubt would be affected with interstate commerce characteristics. Matches would probably come from Sweden. The guns would come from the New England locale, the ammunition from up that way, and the automobiles used probably from Michigan. Even the clothing worn by the victim and his assailants might have been made in Virginia.

Senator Borah is getting up in years. He belongs to the old school of lawyers who believe that a lynching is intrastate and not interstate, a local and not a Federal problem. He believes that those rights not conferred on the Federal government ar reserved to the States, which was true when he learned law, since which it has fallen into general disuse. A paternal government that gives board and room to the States must be paid in some way.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
April 18, 1937

Topics of the Day

THE ANTILYNCHING BILL

It is profoundly disturbing that the House should have passed, and by such a large majority, the antilynching bill last night.

It clearly has its origin in political consideration, for it is fathered and has been pressed by a Tammany Democrat, the majority of whose constitutents are Negroes.

It was supported in the main by Northern and Eastern Democrats, who seek to forever wean the Negro from the Republican Party by their advocacy of it.

It is aimed directly at the South, despite the fact it has made strides in recent years in building up public sentiment against the horrible crime of lynching.

Where the Negro used to be fair game for a "necktie party," on almost any pretext, he has been given increased protection in most states, and mob action is becoming more and more a thing of the past.

Lynching has decreased 5,000 per cent in the last forty years.

Passage of such an extreme and unwarranted bill as the Gavagan measure would cause unbounded resentment and ill feeling in the South.

It would punish both the innocent and guilty in a county in which a lynching took place.

It would hamper local law enforcement, and throw upon the state the burden and expense of calling out the militia upon almost every occasion, when a crime of a violent nature, involving a Negro, is committed.

In fact, it has been argued that it would even give the Federal Government the power to prosecute a Governor, if he failed to call out the state guard, in case of a lynching.

Lynching is indefensible, but it is not more so than this radical and unjust bill, which invades the rights and powers of the states, and threatens to make them cringe before the Federal Government.—Huntsville Times.

Union, S. C., Times
April 16, 1937

A GRAVE SITUATION

The House, by a vote of 277 to 119, passed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill yesterday. The bill now goes to the Senate. Gavagan is a Tammany Democrat representing the negro school district of Harlem. The proposed law would

make lynching a federal crime and
subject peace officers having in
custody accused prisoners, subject
to fine and imprisonment and the
county in which the lynching oc-
curred will be heavily fined. For
some time we have felt that one of
the gravest questions involved in
the loss of states' rights by en-
croachment of the federal govern-
ment was the race problem. This
outburst to take over the policing
of the states by the federal gov-
ernment is proof that our conten-
tion was justified. It now appears
that Senator Guffey knew what he
was talking about when, during the
last presidential campaign he made
the assertion that the Democrats
had to have the negro vote to win.
We now make this prediction: If
the Senate passes this bill and it
becomes a law, there will come a
deluge of lynching that will over-
shadow any period we have yet
had in this country. Throughout
the South, and for that matter,
other sections of the conutry, the
officers will not attempt to pro-
tect prisoners, for the simple rea-
son that they will not arrest them,
and those charged with certain
crimes will fall into the hands of
mobs that will carry out the lynch-
ings. Those charged with certain
crimes will fall into the hands of
the mob and never see the sheriffs
nor their deputies. Lynchings in
the South, if this bill becomes law,
will increase to an astounding de-
gree. To say that officers neglect
their duty in such cases is to talk
foolishness. You cannot prove that
an officer is purposely absent, that
his failure to arrest the alleged
criminal was a premeditated act.
Under the present conditions
in the South lynchings have
decreased in a marked degree. In
fact there are in other sections of
the country almost as many lynch-
ings as there are in the South.

that it neither here nor there:
this idea of white supremacy in
the South is deeply rooted and it
will be maintained to the utmost,
we believe. Segregation of the
black and white races. We will
not tolerate social equality, inter-
marriage nor the opening of mixed
schools. Under the present con-
ditions the negroes of the South
have made no small advance. Un-
der a law such as Representative
Gavagan proposes the advance-
ment of the negroes of the South
will be set back a hundred years.
That's our prediction, and it is
an honest expression, spoken with-
out malice and with the best of
good will towards the negro race.
You might with equal justification
pass a national police law to pro-
tect Japanese, Chinese, or any oth-
er alien race. Specific punitive
police laws should seldom be pass-
ed by the Congress. Such laws
belong to the states, not the na-
tional government. But in this day
when Congress is regimenting
agriculture, industry and business
—things commercial, it is not sur-
prising that the attempt to regu-
late the social life of individual
states should come to the fore. If
the present administration presses
too far in the crusade to beat down
the traditions of the white people
of the South, the white people
of the South will abandon the
Democratic party. There will be
no solid South controlled by Dem-
ocrats.

Lancaster, S. C. News
April 16, 1937

It Will Probably Pass

It looks rather certain that some
sort of anti-lynching bill will be pas-
sed by this Congress. President
Roosevet has said not a word to in-
dicate what he would do if such a
bill shall be enacted into law.

Lynching is a horrible thing. No
one can excuse it. It has a degrad-
ing effect on any community in
which it happens to be used.

For this reason it is easy to en-
list endorsement or support of al-
most any proposal to attempt the
abolition of lynching.

But this proposal to put into the
hands of the Federal government
the power to take over trials where
ever "three or more persons" make
an attack on another (the "three"
being named so as to define a mob)
as is now proposed, is an exceeding-
ly dangerous proposal.

You may not have given any
thought to the bill. You may feel
such righteous indignation over the
whole crime of lynching that you
are ready to endorse this bill with-
out even considering it. We share
with you this indignation over lyn-
ching but we cannot help giving con-
sideration to the consequences of
such a bill should it become the law
of the land.

One of the greatest troubles with
our land today is that so often we
refuse to consider the consequences
of what we are about to do.

Congressman Pearson, of the State
of Tennessee, last Friday pointed
out some of the danger signals in
this bill.

Read what he says carefully and
reflect on the consequences of such
legislation:

"Section one defines 'mob or rio-
tous assemblage' as an assemblage
composed of three or more persons
acting in concert, without authority
of law, to injure or kill any person in
the custody of any peace officer
with the purpose or consequence of
depriving such person of due process
of law or the equal protection of the
laws.

"Section two is the 'green light'
or 'go ahead' section, informing the
courts that the fourteenth amend-
ment to the Constitution justifies
this legislaion and provides that if
any State fails, neglects, or refuses
to protect the life or person of any
individual against a mob either by
preventing or punishing the acts of
such mob such State shall be deem-
ed to have denied to such person due
protection of law and equal protec-
tion of the law.

"Without the flicking of an in-
termediate 'yellow light' for clearing
the way, sections three, four, five
and six flash 'red', telling you and
me to stop and think long and well
before acting on this measure.

Section three provides first that
any oficer of a State charged with
the duty of protecting the life of any
individual who is put to death by a
mob or having such individual in his
custody fails to make all diligent ef-
forts to protect him shall be guilty
of a felony and upon conviction
shall be punished by fine not ex-
ceeding five thousand dollars, or im-
prisonment not exceeding 5 years, or
both, and secondly, that any State
officer having in his custody a pri-
soner who shall conspire with any
person who is a member of a moo
to injure or kill said prisoner or to
suffer such prisoner to be taken
from his custody to be so treated,
together with those who conspire
with him shall be guilty of a felony
and upon conviction shall be impri-
soned not less than five nor more
than 25 years.

"Section four gives the District
Court of the United States of the
district in which such person is in-
jured or killed jurisdiction to try
and punish in accordance with the
laws of the State where the offense
is committed, provided it appears
that State officers whose duty it is
to apprehend and punish such of-
fender have failed to do so or that
jurors obtainable in the State courts
where the case is to be tried are so
strongly opposed to such punish-
ment that there is probability the
offenders will not be punished in
the State courts. If such offender
is not apprehended or indicted or
prosecuted within thirty days after
the crime is committed, such fail-
ure shall constitute prima-facie evi-
dence of failure, neglect, or refusal
to do so.

"Section five renders any county
in which such crime occurs liable to
such injured person or his represen-
tative for a sum between two and
ten thousand dollars and provides
the method of recovering such dam-
ages.

"Section six provides that in the
event such injured person is trans-
ported from one county to another
after seizure and before death both
counties shall be jointly and sever-
ally liable."

The only excuse for this bill is
that the State cannot or will not at-
tempt to check lynching and there-
fore the Federal government must
step in and do the work.

But the States, regardless of whe-
ther they be Southern, Eastern or
Western, will be giving up their last
shred of sovereign power when they
give to the Federal government the
power to take over and try criminal
cases involving "three or more per-
sons" who may attack another."—
Greenwood Index-Journal.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
April 8, 1937

SNAP SHOTS

In the house of the United States
congress is a negro member from Il-
linois. He is the only negro in the
body, having succeeded a negro con-
gressman from the same state, the
defeated member being a Republican.
This negro congressman has gotten
up an anti-lynching bill which car-
ries "a maximum penalty of five
years in prison and a $5,000 fine for
any state, city or county officer who
shall 'suffer and permit' a prisoner
to be taken from his custody and in-
jured or put to death." The bill had
one provision which the house judi-
ciary committee struck out before
approving it. It was that a lynching
was evidence that the officer allow-
ed it. Of course this as well as other
anti-lynching bills have been and are
primarily meant for the South. Here
is another that Southern people
might take note of: A congressman,
a white Democrat from New York,
has also an anti-lynching bill. It is
said that his bill is more drastic
than the one the negro has gotten
up. With the approval of the bill by
the committee, it will go before the
house for consideration. Of course no
one knows what the house will do
with it. It may become law or it may
not be passed. One interesting thing
about the late anti-lynching bills is
that, first, they are born in the brains
of Democrats. Second, one a negro
and the other a white. Thirdly, they
are, as all others of their stripe, aim-
ed primarily at the south, which has
the brains and strength of the Dem-
ocratic national party. No Democrat
can be elected president at any time
except in times that are not normal,
due to the fact that there are more
Republicans than Democrats. Demo-
cratic success depends on Republi-
can and Independent help. But with-
out the aid of the South there would
be no Democratic party worth con-
sidering. It would be the Republican
party and some other party. So it is
strange that seemingly a Democratic
administration is standing for many
things detrimental to the South such
as social equality, in a way, child la-
bor laws, anti-lynching laws. It
could readily be understood if such
was coming from Republican sources
as they have in a certain way in the
past, but coming from the party to
which the South belongs, one is
stumped to understand it. In justice
to the house judiciary committee we
will say that the vote was not unan-
imous as it stood 8 to 7. This is grati-
fying and encouraging if such could
be so classed.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5685

Editorial Gives Attitude Of Southern White Press Regarding Anti-Lynch Bill

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 8 — The following is taken from the editorial page of the Item-Tribune, white daily, and gives an interesting slant upon the attitude of the southern white press regarding the Anti-Lynching bill:

LYNCHING LAW

We hear Congress expects to stage another rumpus over an anti-lynching bill. Opponents of such legislation may be able to block it again. Perhaps it should be blocked—we are still open to persuasion on this issue. But deeply as we deplore most Congressional debate which puts nothing tangible through the mill, wrangling about lynching may not be a waste of time.. Every debate on this subject in the national forum strengthens national feeling against lynching.

That puts responsibility in the matter squarely up to state and local authority in the territory which opposes Federal anti-lynch law. The issue always has been simple and still is. Either local authority must stop lynching or confess its impotence and make way for Federal action.. Thus far the states have refused to accept the responsibility and opposed acceptance of it by the central government. That dog-in-the-manger position can't be held indefinitely.

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW TO BE SOUGHT AGAIN

Group for Negro Advancement Renews Appeal to Congress for Federal Statute.

CHANCES HELD BRIGHTEST

Association Official Expects Aid of 250 in House—Resolution Ask Other Reforms.

Congress was urged to pass a Federal anti-lynching law in a resolution adopted yesterday at the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the officers and members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue.

Walter White, secretary of the association, reported that 150 members of the House of Representatives were committed to such legislation, while at least 100 others were "not hostile." The active support of sixty-two Senators, he said, could be expected.

"Prospects for the passage of such a bill are more promising than at any previous time," he declared.

An amendment to the Harrison-Fletchel bill for Federal aid to the States for education was also asked in order to eliminate the possibility of discrimination against schools for Negroes in States where separate schools are established by law for the two races. Enactment of a civil rights bill for the District of Columbia was urged in another resolution.

Joel E. Spingarn was re-elected president of the association. Other officers named to serve with him were Dr. Louis T. Wright, chairman of the board of directors; Miss Mary White Ovington, treasurer, and the following vice presidents: Miss Nannie H. Burroughs, Washington; Arthur Capper, Topeka, Kan.; Clarence Darrow, Chicago; Bishop John A. Gregg, Kansas City, Kan.; the Rev. John Haynes Holmes, James Weldon Johnson, the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Arthur B. Spingarn and Oswald Garrison Villard.

New members elected to the board were Dr. Walter Gray Crump, Representative Caroline O'Day, James H. Robinson, Dr. N. C. McPherson of Nashville, Dr. Charles H. Thompson of Howard University, Washington, D. C., and Dr. Elizabeth Yates Webb of Vassar College.

Among members re-elected to the board were Miss Marion Cuthbert, Hubert T. Delaney, Mrs. Rachel Davis Du Bois, Lewis S. Gannett, James Weldon Johnson, Mrs. Grace B. Fenderson of Newark, Carl Murphy of Baltimore, Frank Murphy of Detroit and Dr. William Allan Neilson of Northampton, Mass.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
January 4, 1937

Maverick Favors Anti-Lynch Act

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3 (AP)—Representative Maury Maverick (D., Tex.), who said his great-great-great grandfather was Col. Charles Lynch and responsible for the Lynch law, came out today for a federal anti-lynching act.

"I think it's time," he said, "that the south, as well as the north, condemns lynching, not only by speeches but by laws. Last year there was less lynching than at any time in the history of the United States, but all of it was in the south.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
January 6. 1937

LYNCH BILL

Washington, Jan. 5 (AP)—Predicting "surprising support" from the South, Representative Thomas F. Ford, Los Angeles Democrat, introduced today an anti-lynching bill.

Jackson, Miss., News
January 8. 1937

FROM THE NESHOBA DEMOCRAT—Commenting upon the fact that an anit-lynching bill will no doubt again be introduced in congress, the Jackson Daily News well makes the point that a bill might just as well be introduced to provide a monetary penalty for any homicide.

It is just as unlawful to kill a man with a pistol, an ax or any other way, as it is to lynch him.

He is just as dead one way as another.

Some homicides are just as brutal, if not more so, than lynchings.

We read accounts of butcherings wherein legs and arms and heads are dismembered.

Yet half the time the killer escapes under the flimsy alibi of insanity.

The anti-lynching bill proposes to have the county in which a lynching occurs to pay $10,000 or other sum of money to the victim's family.

Why not provide a similar law for homicides?

There's just as much reason for it, as well pointed out by the News.

Lynch Descendant Seeks Lynch Law

WASHINGTON, Jan. [illegible] (AP)—Rep. Maury Maverick, Democrat, Texas, who said his great-great-great grandfather was Col. Charles Lynch and responsible for the Lynch law, came out today for a federal anti-lynching act.

"I think it's time," he said, "that

the South as well as the North condemns lynching, not only by speeches, but by laws. Last year there was less lynching than at any time in the history of the United States, but all of it was in the South."

Texas Congressman Is For Anti-Lynch Law

WASHINGTON, Jan. [illegible] (AP)—Representative Maury Maverick (D., Texas), who said his great-great-grandfather was Col. Charles Lynch and responsible for the lynch law, came out today for a Federal anti-lynching act.

"I think it's time," he said, "that the South, as well as the North, condemns lynching, not only by speeches but by laws. Last year there was less lynching than at any time in the history of the United States, but all of it was in the South."

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
January 10, 1937

APPROVES AN ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

And now comes a congressman from the South, who deposeth and sayeth that he is in favor of the enactment of a national anti-lynching law with all the frills and furbelows necessary to please those who have been trying for years to enact some kind of legislation that would impose hardships on the people of this section of the country, right or wrong. This ambitious congressman, seeking fame, if not fortune, hails from the "Lone Star" state and bears the name of Maury Maverick. He is quoted by the Associated Press with saying: "My great, great, great, grandfather was Col. Lynch and responsible for the lynch law", all of which, no doubt is true.

We are not informed as to the provisions to be incorporated in the proposed bill to be introduced by Congressman Maverick, but if it contains, in principle, the features of former bills introduced in congress, we hope that it will be defeated, just as many other bills of that character have been side-tracked by congressmen from the South.

It is true, and practically all the people agree, that there should be found a remedy for the prevention of lynching, regardless of sections of the country, but to set up a piece of legislation containing discriminations would, indeed, be unfortunate, not only from a point of sectionalism, but it would defeat the very purpose for which it might be intended.

place a Federal anti-lynching law on the statute books has been launched anew with "prospects for its passage more promising than at any previous time," according to Walter White, its secretary.

Sympathetic as we are with the aims of the association, we cannot support such a measure because we cannot see how it possibly can help prevent lynchings or what good it will do to slap fines on communities where lynchings are perpetrated. In all lawful control of lawlessness that end, they can times past it may have been true that whole communities participated in these fiendish crimes against their duty, but if it ever to join with those civilization, but on only the rarest occasions, if ever hatred for a people that true today.

On the contrary, the good people of a community where a mob of men take the law into their own hands and murder a Negro suspected of crime without giving him an opportunity to defend himself or prove his innocence resent those outrages quite as

From time immemorial, representatives in congress, unfriendly to the South and its people have endeavored to secure enactment of anti-lynch legislation, but the provisions in the measures were so radical and unjust, the representatives from this section of the country have always succeeded in defeating the bills. However, the fact that the number of lynchings throughout the country, should be encouraging and hopeful for the better in the way of eliminating such crimes, be they in Georgia, California or Pennsylvania.

Our congressmen from the southern

Danville, Va., Register
January 7, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

The perennial campaign of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to

...does the association which would penalize the county or town where it was committed. Moreover, unless the members of the mob were identified, the courts would have no way of knowing whether residents of the community in which the crime was committed were responsible for it or not.

These difficulties in the way of administering an anti-lynching law as well as the manifest injustice of levying a fine on a large body of people for the act of a few force us to oppose enactment of such a measure. And we are inclined to believe that the persistence of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in advocating the law is doing their worthy cause much harm.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
January 18, 1937

...The Costigan-Wagner bill provides heavy fines, or imprisonment, or both, for officers failing to be diligent in apprehending and prosecuting lynchers, for those conspiring to kill a prisoner, and for those who allow a prisoner to be taken from them. The state is given 30 days after a lynching in which to act against the lynchers; the U. S. district court has jurisdiction. Counties in which lynchings occur may be fined $2,000 to $10,000, the money to go to the victim's family.

Mitchell Bill Still Fails to Hit Mob

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell's anti-lynching bill, which drew criticism following its introduction in the last Congress, was re-introduced, Friday, without such revisions as would have made its penalties applicable to members of a mob.

Critics pointed out that the proposed measure was directed primarily at officers of the law who permit a prisoner to be taken from their custody and injured or killed, with no provision for punishing the actual lynchers.

It was further charged that victims seized by a mob without having been arrested were not covered, even though the bill provides for municipal liability to an injured victim, or to the legal representatives of one killed, if taken from an officer.

The Illinois Democrat's re-introduced bill provides the same penalties as formerly: A fine of not more than $5,000 or imprisonment for not more than five years, or both, for officer allowing mob to take victim; imprisonment from two to ten years if officer conspires with mob, and recovery of from $2,000 to $10,000 by victim or heirs by civil action.

Commission Bill Also Same

Also re-introduced on Friday was Mr. Mitchell's bill for creation of an industrial commission.

Its provisions likewise are essentially unchanged, calling for five members to be appointed by the President, with at least three of them colored, at salaries of $5,000 a year and $7,500 for the chairman.

A third bill which Mr. Mitchell again introduced would abolish the use of photographs as a means of identifying Civil Service applicants.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
January 15, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill Fought by Floridian

Denouncing proposed federal anti-lynching legislation, Dr. L. M. Bristol, head of the Department of Sociology at the University of Florida, Thursday told the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching:

"The South is capable of working out its own salvation with reference to race relations."

Dr. Bristol told the conference these laws were sponsored in Washington by the National Conference on Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 4, 1937

Lynch's Descendant For Anti-Lynch Law

Washington, Jan. 3.—(AP)—Rep. Maury Maverick, Democrat, Texas, who said his great-great-great grandfather was Col. Charles Lynch and responsible for the Lynch law, came out today for a Federal anti-lynching act.

Kingsport, Tenn. Times
January 20, 1937

ODIOUS ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, predicts passage of an anti-lynching law by the 75th Congress, provided the measure is not blocked by a senate filibuster.

That an anti-lynching measure will be presented to the present session of the national congress goes without saying. Just what form it will take is still uncertain. But whether it is of the radical nature of the before-defeated and odious Wagner Bill, or is of somewhat modified character, it is still objectionable and insulting to the southern states.

The senate filibuster is a weapon which is often unfairly employed, and the fact of its being possible is a sad commentary upon our system of enacting federal legislation. But if ever there were a time when a filibuster is justifiable it certainly is to be condoned in preventing the passage of a despicable anti-lynching bill.

In brief, the purpose of any anti-lynching measure which will be introduced will be to force the arrest and prosecution of lynchers by penalizing the counties and states in which lynchings occur. More probably the system employed would be to impose a federal fine upon a county in which a lynching might occur. In other words, the innocent taxpayers of a county would be penalized because of an act of lawlessness perpetrated in the county.

Obviously this would be utterly unjust and unfair. But why is an attempt to enact such odious legislation an insult to the south? Simply because, while lynchings occur from time to time in all parts of the country, they are more common in the southern states.

On the other hand, most of the kidnapings occur in the northern and western states, with California coming in for more than a fair share. Most of the gang atrocities and racketeering occur in New York and Illinois. Now would it be fair to impose a fine upon some county in California or Washington because a kidnaping occurred there? Would it be just to penalize Cooke county, Illinois, or New York county, New York, because of a gang murder or some racketeering in the great cities of those counties? Obviously not; yet such action would be just as much in line with fairness as to impose a fine upon a southern county because of a lynching.

If the senators and representatives who are promoting this anti-lynching legislation had any regard for the spirit of fair play they would see this. They should also see that the levying of reprisals on innocent taxpayers is in any event a dangerous precedent. Senator Wagner perhaps would not regard very complacently a measure to impose a fine of several hundred thousand dollars upon a state in which a "gang job" of killing, racketeering, or robbery might occur. He would say that was penalizing innocent taxpayers for the work of criminals. Yet he does not hesitate to seek the very same sort of legislation when it bears most heavily on the south.

When the Union of the United States of America was achieved it was not the intention of the founders of our country that the federal government should go into the several states and take out of the hands of these commonwealths the administering of justice. The individual states know best their needs and conditions, and on the whole it is best to allow them to administer their own justice.

We are just as bitterly opposed to mob violence and lynch law as Senator Wagner, or any legislator from the north. But we firmly believe that this is a problem for the individual states to solve, and is not at all within the province of the federal government. We hope and believe that if another such attempt is made to impose this insult and injustice upon the south the southern senators will filibuster the bill until Doomsday.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5686

NEW ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IS INTRODUCED

Revised Version of Costigan-Wagner Measure to Permit Federal Action Against Lynching is Sponsored by N.A.A.C.P.; Objections Raised in Debate Influence Changes

Washington, Jan. 29 - A new Federal anti-lynching bill, which is really a revision of the well-known Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill, was introduced in the House of Representatives this week under the sponsorship of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

It will be introduced in the Senate next week by Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, and a co-sponsor. The N.A.A.C.P. has requested representatives who are friendly to this legislation to introduce identical bills in the hope of arousing greater support for the measure in the House.

One of the objections which has been raised to the old bill was that it might be interpreted as applying to gang and racketeer killing and to clashes between factions in labor disputes. The new bill expressly provides that the term "lynching" "shall not be deemed to include violences occurring between members of groups of law breakers such as are commonly designated as gangsters or racketeers, or violence occurring during the course of picketing or boycotting incidental to any labor dispute."

The new bill also broadens the Lindbergh federal kidnaping act to include interstate kidnapings and lynchings such as the Claude Neal lynching.

The new bill, like the Costigan-Wagner Bill, is not simply confined to those in the custody of peace officers. It covers cases in which victims are hunted down and lynched by mobs or so-called posses before they are ever arrested and formally charged with a crime.

The new bill does not attempt to punish private individuals but concentrates on punishment of peace officers and State prosecutors who fail to protect prisoners before lynching or prosecute the members of the mob after a lynching has taken place. It still provides for civil damages against the county or counties in which lynchings occur.

The new bill also differs from the Costigan-Wagner Bill in that it provides definitely for the conduct of an investigation of a lynching by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, better known as the G-Men. A brief digest of the bill follows:

The bill is entitled "A bill for the better assurance of the protection of persons within the several states from mob violence and lynching and from other purposes."

Section 1. A state shall be deemed to have denied to any victim of lynching equal protection of the laws of the state and due process of law whenever that state shall have failed to employ the lawful means at its disposal for the protection of that person against lynching or against seizure and abduction followed by lynching or violence in labor disputes.

Section 2. Defines a mob as three or more persons exercising by physical violence and without authority of law punishment upon a citizen in the custody of any peace officer or suspected or charged with a crime except that the term "lynching" shall not include gang wars or violence in labor disputes.

Section 3. Provides that any responsible peace officer who either fails, neglects or refuses to protect a prisoner from a mob or to make all diligent efforts to apprehend members of a

mob shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding $5,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or by both.

Section 4. Provides that the Attorney General of the United States, on the affidavit of a citizen that a responsible peace officer has failed to protect a prisoner or made no effort to apprehend lynchers, shall cause an investigation to be made to determine whether there has been any violation of the act.

Section 5. (1) Provides that a county shall be responsible for a lynching occurring within its boundaries and for a lynching occurring outside its boundaries if the victim is seized within its boundaries, in a sum not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000. The county, however, may escape liability if it can show that its peace officers took prompt action and exercised all diligence in their power and still could not prevent a lynching.

Section 5. (2) Provides that suits for damages may be brought in the United States district court by the Attorney General of the United States in the name of the United States for the use of the aggrieved party or parties, without prepayment of costs, and that the money recovered on the judgment shall not be subject to claims of creditors.

Section 5. (3) Gives the judge of the United States district court the power to designate the place in his district where such suits shall be tried.

Section 6. Broadens the interpretation of the Lindbergh Kidnaping Act to include lynching.

CONGRESSMEN START
INTRODUCING BILLS

Washington, Jan. 29.- The first three congressmen to introduce the Federal anti-lynching bill which will be sponsored by the N.A.A.C.P. are C. A. Wolverton, N. J., (H.R. 3785); Carl B. Mapes, Mich., (H.R. 3787); and John H. Tolan, Calif. (H.R. 3807). Other congressmen who have written the N.A.A.C.P. that they will introduce the bill are: Albert G. Rutherford, Pa.; Emanuel Celler, N. Y.; Samuel B. Pettingill, Ind.; Matthew Merritt N.Y.; Jesse P. Wolcott, Mich.; D. Layne Powers, N. J.; Edward O'Neil, N.J.; Charles D. Millard, N. Y.; James P. McGranery, Pa.; Leon Sacks, Pa.; George N. Segar, N. J.

Greensboro, N. C., News
February 3, 1937

FAVORS ANTI-LYNCH LAW.

Richmond, Va., Feb. 2.—(AP)—The Richmond Times-Dispatch says editorially it favors enactment of the federal anti-lynching bill introduced in the house of representatives because it "sees no hope of ever wiping out lynching the greatest crime against southern civilization, except through federal ac-

ANTI-LYNCH BILL DRIVE THREATENS PARTY RIFT

Constitution

Northern Democrats and Republicans Unite for Campaign.

2-22-37

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—(UP)—A coalition drive for early passage of a federal anti-lynching law tonight threatened to split the heavy Democratic majority in congress along sectional lines over the issue of state rights.

Atlanta

Sponsors of more than 40 pending anti-lynch bills contend that federal intervention to punish local officers who fail to prevent mob violence is necessary to stamp out "mob murders."

Senator Robert F. Wagner, Democrat, New York; Representative Joseph P. Gavagan, Democrat, New York, and numerous other Democrats from northern states have joined with Republicans in a drive to force congressional action.

Action Is Taken.

Gavagan introduced last week a resolution to discharge the judiciary committee from consideration of his bill. The committee's refusal to act bars a house vote.

Representative Hamilton Fish, Republican, New York, author of a similar bill, launched another drive to force action by submitting a petition which, if signed by two-thirds of the house membership will call the bill out of committee. He believes there is enough Democratic support to assure passage.

Senator Wagner prepared to introduce the anti-lynching legislation in the senate and said "its passage at this session of congress seems assured."

Chairman Hatton W. Summers, Democrat, Texas, of the house judiciary committee, said he is opposed to the federal anti-lynching laws "because I am opposed to lynching." He charged that "federal intrusion into a governmental problem of the states" would halt progress being made by the communities in stamping out mob violence.

Reduced to Nine.

Summers said local action had brought a gradual reduction in the number of lynchings from 226 in 1892 to nine last year.

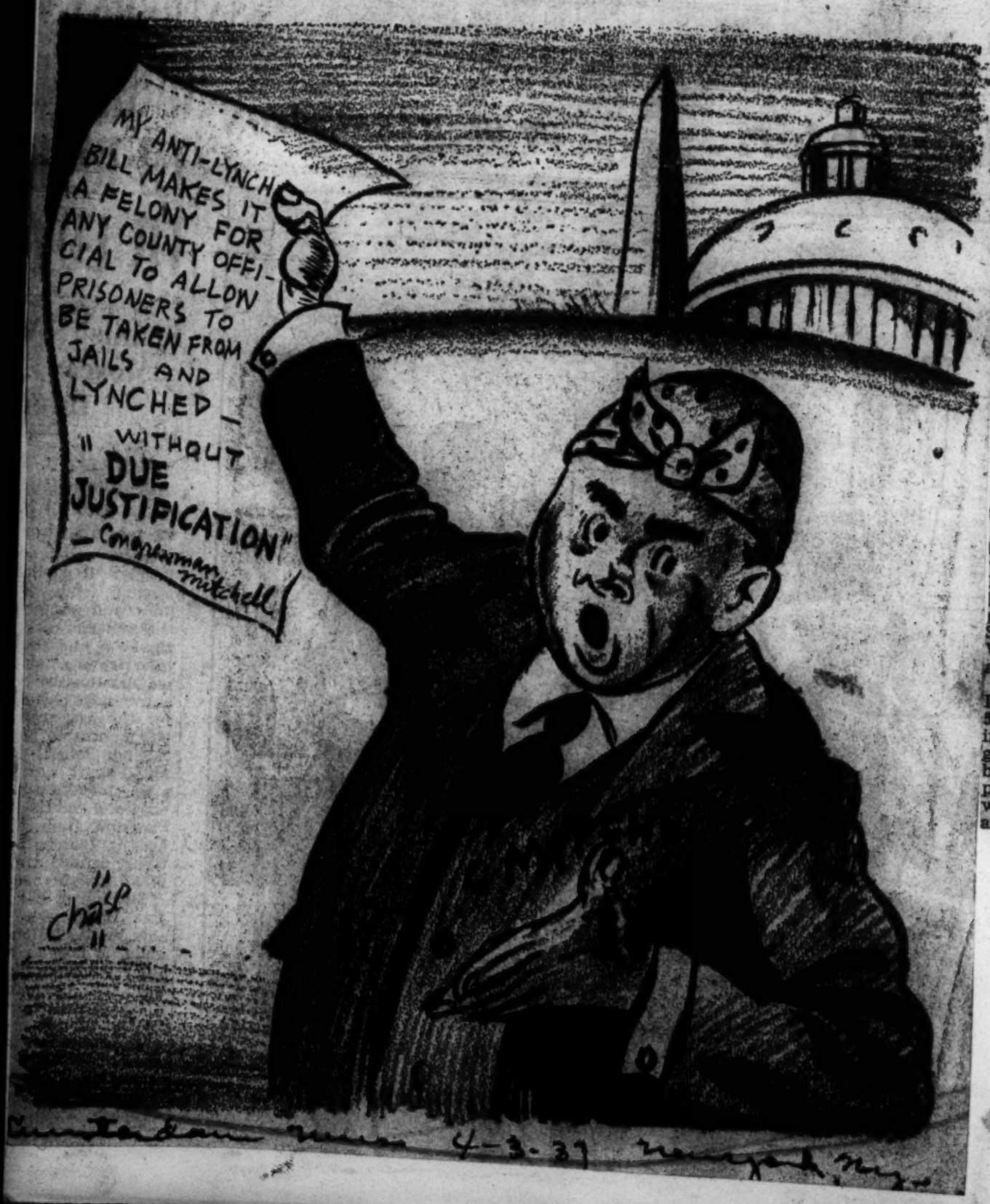
Most of the pending bills would authorize federal authorities to prosecute local officers who neglected to protect prisoners in their custody from mob violence or failed to make "diligent efforts" to apprehend and convict mob members. They provide a penalty of up to five years imprisonment and a $5,000 fine. They also would assess a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 against any county in which a lynching occurred.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5687

April Fool!

By CHASE



Whites Make up Third of Mob Victims in 55 Years

WASHINGTON

"More than five thousand men and women have been lynched since 1882, and almost a third of this number were white men," Representative Arthur W. Mitchell (Dem., Ill.) declared in an address Monday over the Columbia Broadcasting Station WJSV.

Speaking on the topic, "The Necessity of the Passage of a Federal Anti-Lynching Law," the Congressman stated that he considered it safe to assume that out of the more than 5000 cases of lynchings there has been less than 3 per cent of convictions.

He pointed out that though lynching knows no section of the country, yet, the largest number of victims during the past forty years have been in perhaps twelve or thirteen States.

"Statistics showing that a total of 3,314 colored people and 513 whites were lynched from 1882-1930 in fourteen States: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia were given by Mr. Mitchell. Some of these States, particularly Virginia, he indicated, have passed anti-lynching laws.

Concluding he said: "I believe I have the best bill among the 59 which have been introduced in the House this session of Congres. I should like to see my bill become law but as I have said repeatedly, I expect to vote for whatever anti-lynching bill we are able to get before the House."

Anti-Lynching Measures of Mitchell, Gavagan Compared

A comparative analysis of the anti-lynching bills sponsored by Representative Arthur W. Mitchell (Dem., Ill.) and by Representative Joseph A. Gavagan (Dem., N.Y.), which gives at a glance the strong points and weaknesses of each, is presented herewith: Afro-American 4-10-37

The Gavagan measure, debate on which has been set in the House for April 12 is backed by the NAACP and is identical in substance to the Wagner-Van Nuys bill in the Senate.

A debate on the Mitchell measure, which does not have NAACP backing, has been set for April 7. The bills follow:

MITCHELL BILL	GAVAGAN BILL
Mob (No Definition)	**"Mob or riotous assemblage,"** three or more persons acting in concert, without authority of law, to kill or injure any person in the custody of any peace officer. (Sec. 1)
Denial of equal protection, if an officer of State or governmental subdivision thereof, without lawful justification or excuse, suffers or permits prisoner to be taken from custody and injured or put to death, or to be unlawfully injured or put to death while in custody. (Sec. 1-a)	**Denial of due process and equal protection,** if a State or governmental subdivision thereof fails, neglects or refuses to provide and maintain protection to the life or person of any individual within its jurisdiction against a mob or riotous assemblage, whether by way of preventing or punishing the acts thereof. (Sec. 2)
Prima facie case, proof that prisoner unlawfully killed or injured prima facie evidence that officer suffered or permitted prisoner to be taken from custody and injured or put to death, or to be unlawfully injured or put to death while in custody. (Secs. 1-b and 2-b, deleted by Judiciary Committee)	**Prima Facie case.** (No Provision)
Felony, fine not exceeding $5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both, if officer without lawful justification or excuse, suffers or permits prisoner to be taken from custody and injured or put to death, or to be unlawfully injured or put to death while in custody. (Sec. 2)	**Felony,** fine not exceeding $5,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both, if officer fails, neglects or refuses to make all diligent efforts to protect prisoner from being injured or put to death by mob or riotous assemblage; or
(No Provision)	if officer charged with duty of apprehending or keeping in custody, or prosecuting any member of mob fails, neglects or refuses to make all diligent efforts to perform his duty in apprehending, keeping in custody, or prosecuting to final judgment under the State law all mob members. (Sec. 3-a)
Felony, imprisonment not less than 2 years nor more than 10, if officer having prisoner in custody or control, conspires with any person to injure or put such prisoner to death, or to suffer such prisoner to be taken from custody to be injured or put to death. All conspirators guilty. (Sec. 3)	**Felony,** imprisonment not less than 5 years nor more than 25, if officer having prisoner in custody or control conspires with any person to injure or put such prisoner to death without authority of law, or to suffer such prisoner to be taken or obtained from custody or control to be injured or put to death by mob or riotous assemblage. All conspirators guilty. (Sec. 3-b)
(No Provision)	**Prosecution of mob members** in U.S. District Court of judicial district wherein victim injured or put to death, in accordance with laws of State where injury inflicted or homicide committed, **provided** (1) State officers charged with duty of apprehending, prosecuting, and punishing mob members have failed, neglected or refused to do so; or (2) jurors obtainable in State court having jurisdiction are so strongly opposed to such punishment that probability that guilty parties will not be punished in such State court. Failure for more than 30 days after commission of offense to apprehend or indict, or failure diligently to prosecute, prima facie evidence of the failure, neglect or refusal above. (Sec. 4)
Liability against governmental subdivision, not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000 to injured victim or legal representatives, against subdivision whose officer suffered prisoner to be taken from custody and unlawfully injured or put to death, or unlawfully injured or put to death while in custody (?) **provided,** if victim taken from officer of State who is	**Liability against county** in which victim seriously injured or put to death, not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000 as liquidated damages, to injured victim or legal representatives;

not officer of any governmental subdivision thereof, the county or governmental subdivision wherein victim injured or put to death liable as aforesaid;

Suit in United States District Court of judicial district wherein victim injured or put to death;

(No Provision)

(No Provision)

—judgment enforced, if not paid, by United States District Court levying execution on property of county, or mandamus or other appropriate process; any officer of county or other person who disobeys or fails to comply with any lawful order of the court in the premises, liable for contempt and other penalty provided by law therefor;

—proceeds of judgment exempt from claims of creditors of deceased;

(No Provision)

No abatement of action for injury if victim subsequently dies. (Sec. 4)

(No Provision)

Severability clause, in case any provision held invalid. (Sec. 5)

(It is understood that the Mitchell bill was narrowed by the House Judiciary Committee; the exact text as reported by the Committee is not available.)

—proceeds distributed according to laws of intestacy of State wherein death occurred. (Sec. 5)

Joint and several county liability as above provided, where victim transported by mob or riotous assemblage from one county to another, on county wherein victim seized and county wherein victim put to death.

United States District Judge of the United States District Court wherein prosecution or suit under this Act instituted may order prosecution or suit tried in any place in such district as he may designate by order. (Sec. 6)

Severability clause, in case any provision held invalid. (Sec. 7)

Anti-Lynching Measures of Mitchell, Gavagan Compared

A comparative analysis of the anti-lynching bills sponsored by Representative Arthur W. Mitchell (Dem., Ill.) and by Representative Joseph A. Gavagan (Dem., N.Y.), which gives at a glance the strong points and weaknesses of each, is presented herewith: ~~Both~~ 4-18-37

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Suit in United States District Court of judicial district wherein victim injured or put to death;	—suit in United States District Court of judicial district wherein victim injured or put to death;
(No Provision)	—suit brought and prosecuted by United States attorney for such district;
(No Provision)	—judgment enforced, if not paid, by United States District Court levying execution on any property of county, or mandamus or other appropriate process; any officer of county or other person who disobeys or fails to comply with any lawful order of the court in the premises, liable for contempt and other penalty provided by law therefor;
(No Provision)	—proceeds of judgment exempt from claims of creditors of deceased;
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Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

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Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
March 1, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The anti-lynching bill has become chronic with some of the congressmen and senators, and at each session, such bills are introduced. However, the proposed measures have always been sidetracked before coming to a vote in either house. Two Democratic senators have introduced bills this year, but the unreasonable provisions in these bills will, no doubt, cause their defeat, as has been the fate of all such measures in the past.

The New York Herald-Tribune, a rank Republican newspaper, is advocating the passage of the bill. Its endorsement, we believe, will prove a liability rather than an asset. With prejudice and malice shown on the part of the advocates of the anti-lynching legislation, its shelving or tabling is bound to result.

Lynchings, not only in the South, but throughout the nation have been on the decline for the past several years, and if the subject is left alone, conditions will continue to improve and mob violence will no longer exist.

In this section of the country, it is seldom that lynchings occur for any crime save that of rape. When such crimes are committed, they are usually followed by lynchings whethey they occur in the South, East or West. It is not always a case of racial prejudice; it is the character of the crime that causes such outbreaks of mob rule or uprisings. If a white man commits the crime of rape, he is dealt with in the same manner as is the negro, no distinction being made.

We are hopeful that lynchings will cease in this country, but we are mindful of the enormity of such crimes that arouses the feelings of a civilized world and causes the red blood that flows in the veins of the true Americans to boil to a temperature that becomes uncontrolable. The crime of rape should be punishable with death sentences. With a uniform law throughout the nation, it would contribute more towards the elimination of lynchings than any other agency.

Tuscaloosa, Ala. News
February 25, 1937

Lynching Of Law Also Bad

IT is interesting to observe that there are a score or more of "anti-lynch" bills hovering about the Congress, all designed to create "greater respect for law in the South."

Meanwhile it is equally interesting to observe that not a single bill has been offered looking to greater respect for the law in those large portions of the nation outside of the South.

Not a single representative has arisen to suggest some means of ending the persistent lynching of the law in such states as Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois, where the law has been lynched to such a degree that few longer pay attention either to the law or the courts that seek to enforce it.

The South is making vigorous efforts to enforce the laws against lynching and is succeeding much better than are the officials in those states where contempt for the law has become commonplace, and the Congress could proceed with much more fidelity toward the institution of law were it to look upon the matter as a national rather than a sectional problem.

Lynchings of individuals are horrible and are frowned upon with as much severity in the South as in the North, but the fact should be borne in mind that the worst lynching of all is when the law itself is lynched, as it has become a daily occurrence in the North.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
February 28, 1937

Packed Court Would Validate Anti-Lynch Act, Cox Believes

Georgian Points To Dangers In Pending Measure, Which Would Expand Federal Authority In States; Measure Enlarged Court Is Expected To Approve

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—That the proposed enlarged Supreme court would validate one of the drastic anti-lynch bills now pending in Congress, whereas the present court would declare it unconstitutional, is the assertion of Congressman Eugene E. Cox, of Georgia.

The Georgia representative was referring to the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynch bill, which is being pushed with great fervor at this time and the adoption of which would place huge penalties upon counties where lynchings occur, while giving the federal government vastly greater authority in the states. In discussing the proposal, Congressman Cox said:

"The Wagner anti-lynching bill is a proposal to substitute federal power for state laws in the punishment of crime, a peculiar function of the states heretofore. Indeed, it is more. It proposes that the federal government shall compel the people of a county where a lynching takes place to pay the family of the victim up to $10,000, thus punishing the innocent for the acts of the guilty.

"The bill is unconstitutional as the law is construed by the Supreme court as now constituted. It is one of the measures that the court with enlarged membership is expected to validate. There is a long series of others of like character in the waiting which will be pulled out of the bag from time to time, all looking toward the complete destruction of state power and the centering of all control in Washington.

"I will, of course, fight this bill and all others of its kind."

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
February 26, 1937

LYNCHING OF LAW ALSO BAD

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Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
February 27, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL ATTACKED

Cox Challenges Constitutionality Of Pending Senate Measure

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—(AP) Rep. Eugene E. Cox (D-Ga) issued a statement today challenging the constitutionality of the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill introduced in the senate yesterday.

The Camilla, Ga., congressman charged enactment of the measure would work the "complete destruction of all state power and the centering of absolute control in Washington."

He said the anti-lynching bill "is a proposal to substitute federal power for state laws in the punishment of crime, a peculiar function of the states heretofore. Indeed it is more. It proposes that the federal government shall compel the people of a county where a lynching takes place to pay the family of the victim up to $10,000, thus punishing the innocent for the acts of the guilty."

Savannah, Ga., Press
February 27, 1937

E. E. COX FIGHTING ANTI-LYNCH BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27 (AP). Representative Eugene E. Cox (D., Ga.) was aligned against passage of the Wagner-Vany Nuys anti-lynching bill today after challenging the measure's constitutionality.

He described the bill as a "proposal to substitute federal power for state laws in the punishment of crime, a peculiar function of the states heretofore," in a statement issued yesterday.

The bill was introduced in the Senate Thursday.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
February 22, 1937

ANTI-LYNCH LAW BATTLE BREWING

Northern and Western Groups Again Pressing Demand for Federal Legislation

Washington, Feb. 21.—(U.P.)—A coalition drive for early passage of a federal anti-lynching law tonight threatened to split the heavy Democratic majority in Congress along sectional lines over the issue of state rights.

Sponsors of more than 40 pending anti-lynch bills contend that federal intervention to punish local officers who fail to prevent mob violence is necessary to stamp out "mob murderers."

Senator Robert F. Wagner, D. N. Y., Representative Joseph P. Gavagan, D. N. Y., and numerous other Democrats from Northern states have joined with Republicans in a drive to override efforts of Southern Democratic leaders to block Congressional action.

Gavagan quietly introduced in the House last week a resolution to discharge the judiciary committee from consideration of his anti-lynching bill. The committee's refusal to act bars a House vote on the measure.

Would Force Vote.

Representative Hamilton Fish, R. N. Y., author of a similar bill, launched another drive to force action by submitting a petition which, if signed by two-thirds of the House membership, will call the bill out of committee for a House vote. He believes there is enough Democratic support to assure passage.

Senator Wagner prepared to introduce the anti-lynching legislatitor in the Senate and said "its passage at this session of Congress seems assured."

Wagner challenged "constitutional objections" that federal intervention would violate state rights. "Let those who raise these objections remember that our Constitution not only sets up distinct federal and state powers," he said, "but guarantees that all shall have the right to a fair trial and not be summarily put to death."

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners, D. Tex., of the House judiciary committee said he is opposed to the federal anti-lynching laws "because I am opposed to lynching." He charged that "federal intrusion into a governmental problem of the states" would halt progress being made by the communities in stamping out mob violence.

Summers said local action had brought a gradual reduction in the number of lynchings from 226 in 1892 to nine last year. He charged that proposals to take away from the states exclusive responsibility for the problem which is being rapidly solved by them "are difficult to harmonize with an honest to goodness desire to have the offense of lynching disappear from this country."

Admits Improvement.

Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, D. Ill., the only Negro member of Congress, asserted that "states fighting passage of a federal law are doing nothing themselves to stamp out lynching." He conceded that conditions are "gradually growing better," but said that federal action is necessary to eliminate the evil.

The only alternative, he said, is for all states to follow the example of Virginia which passed a law 10 years ago making lynching an offense against the state as a whole and empowering the governor to use all the state's resources in convicting guilty parties. Virginia has had no lynchings since the law went into effect.

Most of the pending anti-lynching bills are based on draft proposals submitted to all Congressmen by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which has agitated the perennial fight for federal legislation.

Summers charged that the association's reports on the number of lynchings each year "are not dependable." He cited the Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro school in Alabama, as authority for his statement that only nine persons were lynched in 1936 in contrast to the association's report of 13.

The NAACP records list 25 lynchings in 1930; 14 in 1931; 10 in 1932; 16 in 1934; 26 in 1935 and 13 last year. One Alabama Negro has been lynched so far this year. Most of the victims were Negroes

It reported 133 lynchings since 1930. It listed these by states as: Alabama, 19; Arkansas, 3; California, 3; Florida, 11; Georgia, 20; Kansas, 1; Kentucky, 2; Louisiana, 10; Indiana, 2; Maryland, 2; Michigan, 3; Mississippi, 23; Missouri, 2; North Dakota, 1; North Carolina, 3; South Carolina, 6; Oklahoma, 2; Ohio, 1; Tennessee, 6; Texas, 11; West Virginia, 2.

The Commission on Inter-Racial Cooperation, maintained by civic leaders of 13 Southern states, has advocated federal anti-lynching legislation in a resolution decrying that "in not one case in 10 is an effective effort made by the state or local authorities to identify and prosecute the members of lynching mobs."

The campaign for federal action has been waged in Congress unsuccessfully for more than 15 years. The House passed an anti-lynching bill in 1922, but it was killed in the Senate. Filibustering killed another effort for Senate action in 1935. The Democratic leadership beat down a strong move to bring a bill by Gavagan to a vote in the House last year.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
March 2, 1937

Smith to Fight Anti-Lynching Bill in Senate

Washington, March 2 (AP).—Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina, returning to the capital after a visit to the state, said he would oppose the anti-lynching bill now before congress "with all the power I have."

Smith aided in blocking consideration of similar proposed legislation during the last congress.

"Why can't they let well enough alone," he said in commenting on the measure to provide federal penalties to prevent lynchings..

"As I see it it is an attempt by outsiders to dictate to a distressed people what they should do about this situation," Smith said. "such a step would tend to increase lynchings rather than decrease them."

Gadsden, Ala., Times
February 25, 1937

LYNCHING OF LAW ALSO BAD

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Charlotte, N. C. Observer
April 6, 1937

Echoes From Press

THE TALK-DOWN STRIKE.

(From The Durham Herald).

The Charlotte Observer opines that another attempt is to be made to "ram" an anti-lynching bill through the congress and expresses the conviction and the hope that southern senators will head it off by a "talk-down strike." Then, in a challenging mood, The Observer dares all who like to undertake to disprove "the intelligent claim that if the laws of the states are ineffectual the laws of the Federal government against lynching will not become any more effectual."

Well, there is fresh congressional talk of an anti-lynching bill and maybe The Observer has cause to forecast that an attempt is going to be made to "ram" it through the congress. What constitutes "ramming" bills through legislative bodies is more than we are willing to say. The term is often used and we suppose it has measurable meaning. But usually the fellow who is on the losing side is one who does the defining and condemns the practice only when he is not with the "ramming" side.

As to the "talkdown strike," they are older in the senate than sit-down strikes are in American industrial centers and in our estimate as uncalled for, senseless and no less to be commended than sit-downs. Probabilities are, though, that The Observer will find plenty of southern senators ready to oblige with tongue and books, if and when the anti-lynching bill reaches the floor of "the most dignified body in the world."

On the point that laws of the states against lynching are as effectual as any anti-lynching law the Federal government can pass, proving the reverse is an assignment we decline. Fact is, it makes sense to say that a state law is as effective as a Federal law in a particular jurisdiction because the effectiveness of each depends on support the people give it. And it troubles us not a bit when southern, northern, eastern or western senators exercise their lungs in suppor of that proposition

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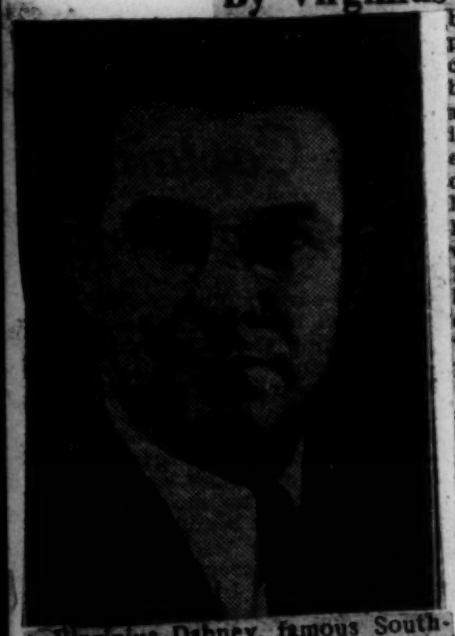
Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
February 21, 1937

THE SOUTH TODAY

The New Anti-Lynching Bill

By Virginius Dabney



Virginius Dabney, famous Southern editor, author and lecturer, and well-known to readers of this column, has, after serving two years as chief editorial writer on the Richmond Times Dispatch, recently been made editor of that paper.

EVER since 1922, when the Dyer anti-lynching bill passed the House of Representatives 230 to 119, and was then filibustered to death by a group of Southern senators, led by the late Oscar Underwood, agitation for legislation of this character has been more or less continuous. An anti-lynching bill sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has just been introduced in both branches of Congress. What are its provisions and is it likely to pass?

Apparently the likelihood that Congress will adopt an anti-lynching bill is greater now than ever before. The N. A. A. C. P. is putting on all the pressure it can command. It claims to have 261 members of the House and 62 members of the Senate already committed—a clear majority in each branch. The overwhelming preponderance enjoyed by the Democrats in Congress gives the members of the party from the North and West, where anti-lynching legislation is more favorably regarded, an immense numerical superiority over those from the South. In addition, many Republicans have always been inclined to favor a federal curb on lynching. Had it not been for a seven-day filibuster in the Senate in the spring of 1935, the Costigan-Wagner bill would almost certainly have been passed.

The bill just introduced, it should be noted, differs from the Costigan-Wagner bill in certain respects. It contains the following provisions:

Any officer who fails to make diligent efforts to protect a prisoner with the result that the prisoner is lynched, or who fails to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of the mob, shall be guilty of a felony, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or a prison term of not more than five years, or both.

Whenever a lynching occurs, and information on oath is submitted to the attorney-general of the United States that any officer charged with the duty of protecting the victim has neglected to make diligent efforts to do so, or to apprehend the members of the mob after the lynching, the attorney-general "shall cause an investigation to be made to determine whether there has been any violation of this act." If he finds that a violation has occurred, proceedings will be instituted against the officer or officers in the United States District Court. There is no provision for federal prosecution of members of the mob.

A governmental subdivision shall be responsible, under the bill, for any lynching occurring within its territorial jurisdicton, and also for any lynchng outside that jurisdiction, if the victim was seized within the jurisdiction. Such a subdivision is subject to a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000, unless it can show that proper diligence was used to protect the prisoner.

✦ ✦ ✦

SUIT for pecuniary damages under the act may be instituted in the United States District Court, and shall be brought by the attorney-general of the United States, or, if the claimant or claimants elect, by counsel employed by them. The next of kin of the person lynched is paid such damages as are awarded.

What are the principal objections to such a bill? In the first place, many regard it as unconstitutional. Conspicuous among the non-Southerners who are firmly convinced that it is in direct conflict with the organic law is Senator Borah, who has stated many times that it would annihilate the sovereignty of the state.

Another leading objection is that the enactment of the bill might mean a pronounced augmentation of interracial bitterness. The class of whites mainly responsible for lynching would resent the entry of the federal authorities into the field, and this resentment might find expression in more, instead of fewer, outbreaks of mob violence against the negroes.

It is also contended that the bill is a reflection on the South, and that it would interfere with the South's "protection of its womanhood." Senator Smith of South Carolina, in discussing the Costigan-Wagner bill in 1935, spoke of the "very humiliating necessity of going outside the laws at times to vindicate the sanctity of our fireside and the virtue of our women."

Some argue, too, that it is not likely the federal courts would be appreciably more effective in securing convictions than the state courts have been. Such critics point out that although a federal court could sit a good many miles away from the scene of the lynching sentiment among the whites there might not be greatly different from that which prevailed in the immediate vicinity of the crime. Opponents of the proposed legislation also cite the indisputable fact that although the horrible and ghastly lynching of Claude Neal in 1934 was an interstate crime, in that Neal was taken from an Alabama jail and lynched in Florida, the federal government took no action.

So much for the arguments against the bill. Whereas there are competent lawyers who question its constitutionality, others regard it as constitutional. Among these may be mentioned Charles H. Tuttle, who filed a brief on behalf of the Costigan-Wagner measure when it was up for passage in 1935, and Prof. Karl N. Llewellyn of the Columbia University law school. Mr. Tuttle contends that "nothing in our national constitution prevents our national government from undertaking such an act of self-preservation, and from protecting itself against the consequences of the breakdown of due process of law through state inaction and of wholesale discrimination in the effective protection of the laws, through the tyrannies of "mob rule." He cites the section of the constitution which says that the United States shall guarantee to every state "a republican form of government," as well as the fourteenth amendment, which provides that no state shall deprive any person of "life, liberty or property without due process of law." He likewise directs attention to the section of the same amendment which endows Congress with the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

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IT IS ALSO argued on behalf of the bill that the states have had decades in which to put a stop to lynchings, with few clearly discernible results. The reduction effected since 1920 is substantial, but for the past ten years the number of mob murders committed annually has remained approximately the same. It seems obvious that as long as the present method of handling lynchers—or of not handling them—is unchanged, lynchings will continue. Lynchers have been punished for only three of the eighty-four lynchings which took place from 1931 to 1935, inclusive, and the penalties in those three cases were right.

We have had such fiendish performances as the burning alive of Henry Lowry at Nodena, Ark., in 1921, and the savage and unprintable tortures of Claude Neal, who was put to death near Greenwood, Fla., in 1934, both lynchings having been announced in advance by the newspapers. Word of the Neal lynching was broadcast by radio and in the press fourteen to fifteen hours before it occurred, and a crowd of from 4,000 to 7,000 white persons from several states, including many children, gathered to witness the negro's prolonged agony. No one was punished.

Advocates of a federal anti-lynching bill see in such a measure the only hope of putting a stop to such barbarities. To the argument that lynchings are necessary to protect Southern womanhood, they retort that fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have even been accused of assaults upon white women.

As a matter of fact, various groups of prominent Southern women have declared emphatically that they do not regard lynching as a defense of womanhood, but rather as a blot on Southern civilization. These include the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Woman's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The Methodist body endorsed the Costigan-Wagner bill at its annual session in 1934, but the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching opposed the measure. The commission of Interracial Cooperation, headed by Dr. W. W. Alexander, with headquarters in Atlanta, was skeptical for years concerning the value of federal intervention in lynchings, but in 1935 it voted unanimously in favor of a federal anti-lynching law. The Costigan-Wagner bill was indorsed by executive bodies of the Young Women's Christian Association, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Federal Council of Churches, the Protestant Episcopal, Congregational and Christian Churches, and the American Federation of Labor, as well as by other organizations.

It seems probable, in view of this widespread support, that the anti-lynching bill just introduced will pass. If so, its passage will be due primarily to the falure of most Southern states to stamp out the hideous crime which has disgraced them before the world.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
March 2, 1937

SEN. SMITH OPPOSES ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Washington, March 1 (AP)—Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina, returning to the capital after a visit to the state, said today he would oppose the anti-lynching bill now before congress "with all the power I have."

Smith aided in blocking consideration of similar proposed legislation during the last congress.

"Why can't they let well enough alone," he said in commenting on the measure to provide federal penalties to prevent lynchings.

"As I see it is an attempt by outsiders to dictate to a distressed people what they should do about this situation," Smith said. "Such a step would tend to increase lynchings rather than decrease them."

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
March 4, 1937

When Mr Roosevelt Speaks

IT is to be hoped that when President Roosevelt makes his "fireside-talk" on March 9 he will give the fullest possible light upon the probable attitude of an enlarged Supreme Court on such issues as the vicious anti-lynching bills now pending in Congress, and the permanence of the South's laws out of which white supremacy has come.

An anti-lynching bill is practically certain to be adopted at the present session, in spite of the fact that its constitutionality is questioned by many representatives. Congressman Eugene Cox, of Georgia, is one among the many who hold that such a law would be declared unconstitutional by the present Supreme Court.

What would be the attitude of an enlarged Supreme Court, created for the specific purpose of validating congressional acts? This is a matter of tremendous importance to the South, because pending anti-lynching bills would not only give the federal government supreme authority in such matters but would place heavy financial penalties upon counties in which lynchings might occur. Thus if a small mob in this county should at any time commit an act of this nature, the whole citizenship of the county could be penalized as much as ten thousand dollars. Thus the innocent would be made to suffer along with the guilty.

These anti-lynching bills are in fact direct efforts to bring about a renewal of some such conditions as were witnessed in the South during the days of reconstruction when natives had no control of their government while carpetbaggers took charge. They constitute further attempts to crucify states' rights in the South in order to please negro voters who hold the balance of power in certain Northern and Mid-West states.

Would Mr. Roosevelt's enlarged court approve of such invasions of states' rights in the South? Many Southerners would like to have from Mr. Roosevelt some assurances upon this point.

Of even greater importance to the South is the question of the permanency of the laws which have been adopted, and which have been sustained by the present Supreme Court, under which white supremacy is maintained in the South.

These laws, made necessary by the terrible conditions that existed during reconstruction days, have been repeatedly attacked and undoubtedly the attacks will be renewed by the Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race should the Supreme Court be enlarged in the manner suggested.

The South would like to have some assurances from Mr. Roosevelt that his enlarged Supreme Court would not break down the barriers that have been erected with so much toil and the destruction of which would bring about a condition of utter chaos.

Again, if Mr. Roosevelt can assure the South that he will protect it in these matters, what assurance can he give that the South will be protected under succeeding administrations?

Clifton Forge, Va., Review
March 1, 1937

AN ANTI-LYNCHING MOVE.

Senators Wagner, of New York, and Van Nuys, of Indiana, have introduced a bill in the United States Senate, their object being to prevent lynchings in this country, and their hope is that the measure they are sponsoring will soon be enacted into law. If our memory is not at fault, and we do not believe that it is, there were less than a dozen persons lynched last year, a very small number, all things considered, and just why the two gentlemen named should be aroused over this limited number of deaths and as silent as the tomb when it comes to the thirty-six thousand who met their deaths on the highways in first one way and then another in the forty-eight States is something we cannot understand. In presenting the bill to put an end to the mob spirit, presumably aimed at the South, the two Senators made it quite plain that they are only concerned in bringing about a reform they regard as absolutely necessary. But granting that they are in dead earnest in their efforts to save human life, we are curious to know why they should become so upset over a lynching here and there and manifest no interest in the highway fatalities. It is within the power of Congress to bring about a change for the better in the matter of the thousands of fatal accidents on the public thoroughfares, but until this good hour nothing has been said or done to put an end to the annual slaughter.

If the New Yorker and the gentleman from the Hoosier State were in real earnest they would not quibble over the few lynchings that have been recorded in the forty-eight States in recent years, but would devote their best energies to solving the greater problem relating to the larger number of deaths that are taking place with no one making a move to remedy the situation. It is not always pleasant to impugn the motives of anybody, but it is dollars to doughnuts that if the occasional outbreaks which result in mob rule were confined to the North and West and not the South, Messrs. Wagner and Van Nuys would have been slow to introduce any measure bearing on this particular subject. For this reason we do not believe they are in the least sincere and therefore are not entitld to the consideration that would be extended them if they were really at work on a bill designed to benefit a larger number of people. Although not in sympathy with the mob spirit and openly opposed to Lynchings, this newspaper cannot see its way clear to endorse the move made by Senators Wagner and Van Nuys. And the reason is that they are straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. If these gentlemen desire to save human life let them secure the passage of a law that will reduce the accidents on the highways by requiring the manufacturers of automobiles and trucks to so gear these machines as to reduce their speed. For the Senators named to get all "het up" over a few lynchings and remain silent on the thirty-six thousand fatal tragedies on the highways of the United States leads to believe that they are playing to the galleries and are by no means in earnest.

The mob spirit is for those who best way to eliminate what is known as the mob spirit is for those who are the victims to quit their meanness. Fiends cannot run at large and commit all manner of crimes without being called to account and until this lawless element decides to reform the country at large cannot hope for the relief now being sought through some Federal law. And lastly, permit us to say that a law on this subject by the national government will not have any more effect than those statutes that are to be found in the various States, the two Senators named to the contrary notwithstanding. It is absurd on its face to think of two men of prominence in the Senate working themselves into a frenzy over the few deaths via the lynching route with not a word of condemnation anent the deaths by automobiles which in a large measure are due to violating the laws of the States in which they take place.

Hendersonville, N. C. Times
April 2, 1937

NEGRO OFFERS LESS DRASTIC LYNCHING BILL

Measure by Mitchell of Illinois More Moderate Than Govan's

WASHINGTON, April 2. (UP)—The house judiciary committee late yesterday voted 8 to 7 to report favorably an anti-lynching bill sponsored by Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, D., Ill., the only negro congressman.

The measure carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $5,000 fine for any state, city or county officer who shall "suffer and permit" a prisoner to be taken from his custody and "injured or put to death."

It is expected to supercede a more drastic bill sponsored by Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan, D. N. Y., which is scheduled for house debate April 12. This measure will be brought up through a vote-forcing petition.

The committee struck out of the Mitchell bill provisions which would have made proof of a lynching prima-facie evidence that the officer charged with custody of the prisoner permitted it to occur. The amended measure calls for punishment of local officers only when they give up their prisoners to mobs "without lawful justification or excuse."

It also provides that the county whose officers are blamed for a lynching shall be liable for a maximum of $10,000 damages to the victim's family.

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners, D., Tex., of the judiciary committee, who personally opposes any federal intervention in the lynching problem, indicated the Mitchell bill would be brought up early next week.

Democratic leaders have attempted to sidetrack the controversial issue but were forced to action by majority support of the Gavagan bill petition. Mitchell is confident his measure will pass the house, but senate action this session is doubtful.

The judiciary committee's vote yesterday was the first favorable action on anti-lynching legislation since 1922. Filibusters have prevented senate action during the long fight.

Lynchings- 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5690

Alexandria, La. Town Talk Daily
March 13, 1937

At It Again

Two Democratic senators, Wagner of New York and Van Nuys of Indiana, have introduced a new federal anti-lynching bill in Congress. It is patterned after a measure in which the New Yorker was interested during the last Congress; that bill, sponsored by Wagner and Senator Costigan of Colorado, was blocked by opponents, largely from the South. The present bill should be defeated for many reasons: Primarily, it is intended to be sectional, which should be sufficient to beat it; beyond that, however, it is unworkable, it is useless and it is a direct assault upon states' rights, therefore unconstitutional.

The main features of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, as in others introduced from time to time by congressmen seeking to curry favor with negro voters of Northern states, are: Punishment by federal law of any legal officer whose negligence leads to the lynching of a prisoner entrusted to his custody; a penalty of from $2,000 to $10,000, levied against any local subdivision of government which fails to protect and give fair trial to persons accused of crime. Such a law is useless because the states are able to do just as much to prevent lynchings as is the federal government. It is not workable, for the reason that the same citizens sit on federal juries as on state court juries and will render the same sort of verdict in one court as the other. Senator William E. Borah of Idaho is opposed to such legislation because it is violative of the constitution—and his opinion upon such a point will be accepted by Southerners as final.

Sponsors of the pending anti-lynching bill say it is not an assault upon states' rights, but that "it is an attack only upon mob rule." They know better. But they are counting upon the presence in Congress of a great many more Northern Democrats than ever before and hoping to use effectively the argument that many of them were elected with the aid of negro votes last November. The seventy-fifth Congress has many measures of real importance now pending—problems calling for the best thought and the most painstaking attention. It should not be asked to devote a lot of valuable time to such legislation as Messrs. Wagner and Van Nuys are trying to have passed. It is a time, though, when every Southern Democrat and every believer in states' rights should be alert to the peril the measure contains and be prepared to take whatever action may be required to keep the bill from getting to the Senate floor for argument and vote.—Shreveport Journal.

Sixteen More Needed

Source 4-5-37 Pittsburgh

Sixteen more signatures of Congressmen are needed to the Gavagan petition No. 5, in order to make the anti-lynching bill a special order of business and bring it out on the floor for limited debate and vote. Two hundred and eighteen signatures are required; 202 have been obtained.

Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, fanatical opponent of anti-lynching legislation, seeks to block the petition. We regret to hear that the only Negro member in Congress has seen fit to aid Congressman Sumners' efforts.

The 202 signatures already obtained represent hard work on the part of the N.A.A.C.P. lobbyists and fine co-operation on the part of public spirited individuals and organizations, aided by numerous white people of the same character. It is a fine example of interracial co-operation for the benefit of American civilization.

Illinois Solon's Measure Rejected By House Group

Daily Times 4-3-37
Augusta, Ga.

Representative Gavagan's Proposed Legislation To Be Presented This Monday; Has N.A.A.C.P. Support

WASHINGTON—(SNS)— An anti-lynching bill introduced by Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, of Illinois, was refused consideration by the U. S. House of Representatives Wednesday. Pressure had been brought to bear against its consideration from all portions of the nation, Atlantans figuring in the countless number of protests sent to representatives in the nation's capital.

Opponents of the Mitchell-sponsored measure joined with supporters of a bill offered by Representative Gavagan (Democrat, New York). The Gavagan measure is scheduled to come up for consideration Monday.

The defeat of the Mitchell measure came about after Representative Gavagan forced a quorum call before debate was scheduled to open on the Illinois solon's bill. The New York democrat, in forcing the call, said that Mitchell's measure was without "teeth." This was the same contention of the NAACP in asking organizations and individual throughout the country to ask opposition to the Mitchell measure.

Both the Mitchell and Gavagan measures would make a county liable for damages in event of a lynching, payable to the victim's family.

Southern members of the house oppose federal anti-lynching laws as an unnecessary invasion of states' rights.

WORTHY OF RESPONSIBILITY

Always a distinct pleasure to chronicle the aversion of threatened lynchings—the experience becomes all the more pleasing at a time when federal anti-lynching legislation is in the very process of receiving congressional attention. 4-3-37

Honors in the present instance go to a couple of our own North Carolina sheriffs. At Marion, Sheriff Grady Nichols—to quote an Associated Press dispatch, "spirited a negro youth out of the county [McDowell] early today after a crowd surrounded the jail here where the boy was held on a charge of ravishing a 12-years-old white girl." On the very same day came this dispatch from Laurinburg: "Scotland county's record of never having the discredit of the lynching of a negro was saved by sheriff's officers last night near Laurel Hill when a mob of negroes sought to catch and lynch a member of their own race for the rape of a negro girl." News 4-3-37

It has generally appeared that official indifference or neglect, if not downright connivance, has a prominent, and perhaps the leading, part in lynchings as they are motivated and perpetrated in the southern states. Officers know the type of crime which causes practically all lynchings; and it is an open invitation to the spirit of mobbery and its manifestation not to take every precaution, the safest being removal of the prisoner to a more distant and perhaps more impregnable jail, when the type of offender upon whom such visitation of fury is calculated to fall is apprehended. It becomes doubly indefensible when an officer makes public pronouncement not only of the capture but frequently of the prisoner's confession.

On the one side, it is true, these instances where lynchings are averted accentuate the indictment of officialdom, with its political rooting and acquiescence in the mob, if popular, spirit, and argue for a federal mandate which will force local authorities to meet their sworn responsibility or have Uncle Sam take it out of their hides.

The aversions, North Carolina's two of the immediate present, show what can be done when there is official will and intelligence. A meeting of responsibility is infinitely more effective for the retention of state's rights than are all the oratorical outcries which of themselves make the issue but a shibboleth.

Anti-Lynching Bill Assailed as Illegal

WASHINGTON, April 16.—(AP)—Representative John E. McClellan, of Malvern, Ark., said today no one had "seriously contended" the Gavagan anti-lynching bill was constitutional and "it is not expected that any impartial court will hold it to be."

He described the measure, passed by the House yesterday as one "to heap scorn and derision on one part of the country to pleasure and elation of another section." He said it was designed to gain negro political support but that proponents paraded "under the guise of wanting to blot out crime."

He predicted the law would neither stop lynchings nor promote law enforcement.

ACT IS AIMED TO HIT DIXIE, COX DECLARES

Counties in Which Mob Violence Occurs Would Be Fined Under Measure

LAW OFFICERS PENALIZED

Senator Borah Gives Notice of Stern Fight on Plan in Upper Branch

WASHINGTON, April 15 (AP)—The house overrode bristling Southern opposition tonight to pass the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. It would authorize the federal government to intervene in mob crimes to punish participants and negligent officers.

After more than six hours' hectic debate, it voted 277 to 119 to approve the measure and sent it to the senate where, sponsors agreed, it faced sterner opposition.

Even as the house voted, Senator Borah (R., Idaho), issued a statement condemning what he called an "effort to force through congress an unjust, unconstitutional, and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

In general Republicans joined with Northern Democrats in supporting the bill.

Provisions of Bill Given

The measure, the first of its kind to pass either house since 1922, would subject an officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death to a fine ranging up to $5,000 and to as much as five years in prison.

Likewise, participants would be subject to from five to 25 years imprisonment.

Asserting the bill was aimed at the South, opponents from that section sought in vain to strike from the bill porvisions that would subject counties in which a prisoner was seized or put to death to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. The money would go to a victim's family.

The opponents succeeded once in deleting the sections, only to be reversed by a 232 to 139 move just before the measure passed.

Sumners Warns House

Describing these provisions as the "heart of the bill," its author, Representative Gavagan (D., N. Y.) who represents a New York city district with a large Negro population, told the house the measure would not be "worth the paper it's written on" without them.

Denying the legislation's constitutionality, as did Senator Borah, Chairman Sumners (D., Tex.) of the house judiciary committee, warned colleagues:

"This bill would give the federal government power to prosecute a governor if he did not call out the militia in case of a lynching."

Flushing with emotion, he demanded of sponsors:

"Why don't you let us in the south alone and give us a chance to show what we can do about this situation." He then cited figures to show that lynchings had declined 5,000 per cent since the peak in 1892.

Cox Accuses Colleagues

One of the few Republicans opposing the bill, Representative Hoffman, of Michigan, asserted its ob-

Democrats Voting Yes

Here is the vote by which the house passed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill tonight:

Democrats for:

Aleshire, Ohio; Allen, Pa.; Allen, Del.; Anderson, Mo.; Arnold, Ill.; Ashbrook, Ohio; Barry, N. Y.; Beam, Ill.; Beiter, N .Y.; Bigelow, Ohio; Bloom, N .Y.; Boehne, Ind.; Boland, Pa.; Boren, Okla.; Boyer, Ill.; Boyland, N. Y.; Bradley, Pa.; Buck, Cal.; Byrne, N. Y. Casey, Mass.; Celler ,N. Y.; Champion, Ill.; Criton, Conn.; Claypool, Ohio; Cochran, Mo.; Coffee, Wash.; Golden, Cal.; Cole, Mo.; Connery, Mass.; Costello, Cal.; Creal, Ky.; Crosby, Pa.; rosser, Ohio; Crowe, Ind.; Culen, N. Y.; Curley, N. Y.; Daly, Pa.; Delaney, N. Y.; Dempsey, N. M.; Demuth, Pa.; Dickstein, N. Y.; Dingell, Mich.; Dixon, Ohio; Dockweiler, Cal.; Dorsye, Pa.; Drew, Pa.; Dunn, Pa.; Eberharter, Pa.; Ecker, Pa.; Edmiston, W. Va.; Eicher, Iowa; Ellenbogen, Pa.; Evans, N. Y.; Faddis, Pa.; Farley, Ind.; Fitzgerald, Conn.; Fitzpatrick, N. Y.; Flannery, Pa.; Fieger, Ohio; Fletcher, Ohio; Forand, R. I. Ford, Cal.; Frey, Pa.; Fries, Ill.; Gambrill, Md.; Gavagan, N. Y.; Gildea, Pa.; Gingery, Pa.; Goldsborough, Md.; Gray, Ind.; Gray, Pa.; Greever, Wyo.; Griswold, Ind.; Haines, Pa.; Harlan, Ohio; Harrington, Iowa; Hart, N. J.; Healey, Mass.; Hennings, Mo.; Higgins, Mass.; Hildebrandt, S. D.; Hill, Wash.; Hill, Okla. Honeyman, Oregon; Houston, Kan.; Hunter, Ohio; Imhoff, Ohio; Izac, Cal.; Jacobsen, Iowa; Jenckes, Ind.; Johnson, W. Va.; Johnson, Okla.; Kee, W. Va.; Keller, Ill.; Kelly, Ill.; Kelly, N. Y. Kennedy, Mo.; Kennedy, N. Y.; Kenney, N. J.; Koegh, N. Y.; Kirvan, Ohio; Kloeb, Ohio; Kniffin, Ohio; Kocialkowski, Ill.; Kopplemann, Conn.; Kramer, Cal.

Lamneck, Ohio; Lazetta, N. Y.; Larrabee, Ind.; Lea, Calif.; Lesinski, Mich.; Lewis, Md.; Long, Ill.; Lucas, Ill.; Luckey, Neb.; Ludlow, Ind.; Luecke, Mich.; McAndrews, Ill.; McCormack, Mass.; McGranery, Pa.; McGrath, Calif.; McKeough, Ill.; McLaughlin, Neb.; Magnuson, Wash.; Martin, Colo.; Maverick, Texas; Mead, N. Y.; Meeks, Ill.; Merritt, N. Y.; Mitchell, Ill.; Mosier, Ohio; Nichols, Okla.; Norton, N. J.; O'Brien, Mich.; O'Brien, Ill.; O'Connell, Mont.; O'Connell, R. I.; O'Connor, Mont.; O'Connor, N. Y.; O'Day, N. Y.; O'Leary, N. Y.; O'Malley, Wis.; O'Neal, N. J.; O'Toole, N. Y.; Palmisano, Md.; Patterson, Kan.; Pettengill, Ind.; Peyser, N. Y.; Pfeiffer, N. Y.; Phillips, Conn.; Polk, Ohio; Quinn, Pa.; Rabaut, Mich.; Ramsay, W. V.; Randolph, W. Va.; Reilly, Wis.; Rigney, Ill.; Robinson, Utah; Ryan, Minn.; Sabath, Ill.; Sacks, Pa.; Sadowski, Mich.; Schaefer, Ill.; Schulte, Ind.; Scott, Calif.; Secrest, Ohio; Shanley, Conn.; Shannon, Mo.; Sirovich, N. Y.; Smith, Conn.; Smith, W. Va.; Smith, Wash.; Snyder, Pa.; Somers, N. Y.; Stack, Pa.; Sullivan, N. Y.; Sutphin, N. J.; Sweeney, Ohio; Swope, Ohio; Thom, Ohio; Thompson, Ill.; Tobin, Calif.; Towey, N. J.; Transue, Mich.; Voorhis, Calif.; Wallgren, Wash.; Walter, Pa.; Wearin, Iowa; Wene, N. J.

Total Democrats for 189.

Republicans Voting Yes

Republicans for:

Allen, Ill.; Andresen, Minn.; Arends, Ill.; Bates, Mass.; Brewster, Me.; Burdick, N. D.; Carlson, Kan.; Case, S. D.; Church, Ill.; Clason, Mass.; Cluett, N. Y.; Crawford, Mich.; Crowther, N. Y.; Culkin, N. Y.; Dirksen, Ill.; Ditter, Pa.; Dondero, Mich.; Douglas, N. Y.; Dowell, Ia.; Engel, Mich.; Englebright, Cal.; Gifford, Mass.; Guyer, Kan. Gwynne, Ia.; Halleck, Ind.; Hancock, N. Y.; Hartley, N. J.; Hope, Kan.; Jarrett, Pa.; Jenkins, O. Jenks, N. H.; Kinzer, Pa.; Lambertson, Kan.; Lemke, N. D.; Lord, N. Y.; Luce, Mass.; McLean, N. J.; Maas, Minn.; Mapes, Mich.; Martin, Mass.; Mason, Ill.; Michener, Mich. Millard, N. Y.; Mott, Ore.; Oliver, Me.; Plumley, Vt.; Powers, N. J.; Reece, Tenn.; Reed, Ill.; Reed, N. Y.; Rees, Kan.; Rich, Pa.; Robison, Ky.; Rogers, Mass.; Rutherford, Pa.; Seger, N. J.; Shafer, Mich.; Short, Mo.; Smith, Me.; Snell, N. Y.; Stafen, Neb.; Taber, N. Y.; Taylor, Tenn.; Thomas, N. J.; Thurston, Ia.; Tinkham, Mass.; Tobey, N. H. Treadway, Mass.; Welch, Cal. White, O.; Wigglesworth, Mass. Wolcott, Mich.; Wolfenden, Pa. Wolverton, N. J.; Woodruff, Mich.

Total Republicans for 75.

Others Voting Yes

Progressives for:

Amlie, Bolleau, Gehrmann, Hull Sauthoff, Schneider, Withrow, all of Wisconsin; Havenner, Cal.

Total Progressives for 8.

Farmer-Laborites for:

Bernard, Buckler, Johnson, Kvale Teigan, all from Minnesota.

Total Farmer-Laborites for 5.

Total for 277.

ject was to give the "Democratic party in New York more Negro votes."

Voicing similar views, Rep. Rankin, (D., Miss.) shouted at Gavagan:

"You want to make Harlem safe for Tammany."

Rep. Cox (D., Ga.) bitterly accused northern Democrats of turning against the South.

"For more than 100 years the South has kept the Democratic party alive. Now that it has grown fat and powerful, it proposes to turn upon the South and deal it this wicked blow."

Democrats Voting No.

Democrats against:

Allen, La.; Atkinson, Tenn.; Bankhead, Ala.; Barden, N. C.; Bierman, Ia.; Bland, Va.; Brooks, La.; Brown, Ga.; Bulwinkle, N. C.; Burch, Va.; Caldwell, Fla.; Cannon, Mo.; Cartwright, Okla.; Chandler, Tenn; Chapman, Ky.; Clark, N. C.; Coffee, Neb.; Collins, Miss.; Colmer, Miss.; Cooley, N. C.; Cooper, Tenn.; Cox, Ga.; Cravens, Ark.; Deen, Ga.; DeRouen, La.; Dies, Tex.; Disney, Okla.; Doughton, N. C.; Doxey, Miss.; Drewry, Va.; Driver, Ark.; Duncan, Mo.; Fernandez, La.; Ford, Miss; Fuller, Ark.; Fulmer, S. C.; Garrett, Tex.; Gasque, S. C.; Green, Fla.; Hill, Ala.; Hook, Mich,; Jarman, Ala.; Johnson, Tex.; Jones, Tex.; Kerr, N. C.; Kitchens, Ark.; Kleberg, Tex.; Lamberth, N. C.; Lanham, Tex.; Leavy, Wash.; Lewis, Colo.; McClellan, Ark.; McFarlane, Tex.; McGroarty, Cal.; McMillan, S. C.; McReynolds, Tenn.; Mahon, S. C.; Maloney, La.; Mansfield, Tex.; Massingale, Okla.; May, Ky.; Miller, Ark.; Mills, La.; Mitchell, Tenn; Moser, Pa.; Murdock, Utah; Murdock, Ariz.; Nelson, Mo.; O'Neal, Ky.; Owen, Ga.; Pace, Ga.; Patman, Tex.; Patton, Tex.; Pearson, Tenn.; Peterson, Ga.; Peterson, Fla.; Poage, Tex.; Ramspeck, Ga.; Rankin, Miss.; Rayburn, Tex.; Richards, S. C.; Robertson, Va.; Rogers, Okla.; Romjue, Mo.; Sanders, Tex.; Smith, Va.; South, Tex.; Sparkman, Ala.; Spence, Ky.; Steagell, Ala; Sumners, Tex.; Tarver, Ga.; Taylor, S. C.; Terry, Ark.; Thomas, Tex.; Thomaston, Tex.; Turner, Tenn.; Umstead, N. C.; Vincent, Ky.; Vinson, Ga.; Warren, N. C.; Weaver, N. C.; West, Tex.; Whelchel, Ga.; White, Idaho; Whittington, Miss.; Wilcox, Fla.; Williams, Mo.; Woodrum, Va.; Zimmerman, Mo.

Total Democrats against 116.

Republicans VotingNo

Republicans against:

Cole, N. Y.; Hoffman, Mich.; Knutson, Minn.

Total Republicans against 3.

Total against 119.

Paired:

Gilchrist (R., Ia.) for, Starnes (D., Ala.) against; Eaton (R., N. J.) for, Hobbs (D.,Ala.) against; Binderup (D., Neb.) for; Pierce (D., Ore.) against; Parsons (D., Ill.) for, Hancock (D., N. C.) against; Bacon (R., N. Y.) for, Mouton (D., La) against; Sheppard (D., Calif) for, McGehee (D., Miss.)against; Holmes (R., Mass.) for, Boykin (D., Ala.) against; Harter (D., O.) for, Flanagan (D., Va.) against; Schuetz (D., Oil.)for, Andrews (R., N. Y.) against; Fish (R., N. Y.) for, Wadsworth (R., N. Y.) against.

Total paired 20.

Democrats for 189.

Republicans for 75.

Progressives for 8.

Farmer-Laborites for 5.

Total for 277.

Democrats against 116.

Republicans against 3.

Total against 118.

Paired 20.

Vacancies 4.

Not voting 15.

Total house membership 435.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5691

Negro Group Fighting Anti-Lynching Bil

NEW YORK, April 4.—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today sent telegrams to congressional leaders warning them that efforts to bring the Mitchell anti-lynching bill to a vote April 7 will "be bitterly resented by supporters of effective anti-lynching legislation."

The Association described the bill as "emasculated, ineffective and virtually worthless" and characterized the action of the House judiciary committee in approving it April 1 as "an April fool's day trick."

The leaders were urged to insist on bringing up the Gavagan anti-lynching bill for debate on April 12 as provided by a discharge petition signed by 218 representatives.

Washington, D. C. Post
April 4, 1937

Anti-Lynching Legislation.

Signatures of 216 Congressmen on a discharge petition sufficed to stir the House Judiciary committee to a favorable report on the Mitchell anti-lynching bill. Notwithstanding the popularity of the petition, however, the committee vote was only 8 to 7. Obviously the proposed legislation, like its predecessors in this field, confronts hard sledding.

The Mitchell bill, as reported to the House, make it a Federal offense for an officer to surrender a prisoner to a mob. It would also provide damages, payable by the county involved, to the family of the victim. Deleted from the bill was a provision making a lynching prima facie evidence of criminal negligence on the part of the local authorities. In this and other respects, the bill differs from earlier bills, the constitutionality of which has been subject to doubt. In spirit, however, the Mitchell bill follows closely the many which have been introduced at every session of Congress since the war. Only one of these, Dyer bill of 1922, ever passed the House; Southern Senators disposed of it in the Senate.

The lower chamber has always been the more sympathetic toward anti-lynching proposals. The Senate, with its rules encouraging filibusters is commonly considered the chief obstacle in their path. Thus the Wagner-Van Nuys bill today lies pigeon holed in the Senate Judiciary committee. Like the Mitchell bill, it is designed to avoid the constitutional criticisms which have proven the downfall of earlier measures. Most recent of these was the Costigan-Wagner bill which was reported favorably in the Senate three years ago but which, despite support from President Roosevelt, failed to reach a vote. The next year a motion to take up the bill again was defeated after a week's filibuster.

Supporters of anti-lynching legislation point out that if a governmental unit fails to protect a person from mob violence, or properly to prosecute his assailants, that person has clearly been denied the most fundamental of his constitutional rights. On the other hand it is argued that lynchings already go unpunished in spite of State laws and that if jurors in a State court will not agree to convict it is unlikely that jurors in a Federal court in the same locality would vote otherwise. A more cogent objection is that the worst evils of the reconstruction period might be revived by the precedent of a law encouraging Federal penalization of local communities.

The counter-argument is that enlightened public sentiment, notably in the South, demands Federal intervention as the only solution for an atrocious evil. This is not altogether convincing, however. Wherever public opinion is outraged by lynchings, it can and does insist that existing State laws be enforced. Undoubtedly rising public indignation was a powerful influence in reducing last year's lynchings to 9, as against 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934. The current Congressional debate, whatever its outcome, will be time well spent if it hastens the complete abolition of what can only be regarded as a national disgrace.

Burlington, N. C. Times
April 2, 1937

OPPOSES ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

IT IS DISTRESSING to see a paper of the prestige and influence in the South of the Charlotte Observer taking a stand of applause for the Southern senators who, year by year, succeed in filibustering to death anti-lynching measures.

Taking its customary stand in favor of State's rights as opposed to further centralization of legal power in the hands of the Federal government, the Observer says in support of Senators Smith, Bailey and others who never vary from an anti-anti-lynching stand: "The South would expect them to stand their ground upon the intelligent claim that if the laws of the States against lynching are ineffectual, the laws of the Federal government against lynching will not become any more effectual."

We hate to say it, but this strikes us as pure sophistry. The laws of the various States are pretty emphatic on robbery and murder, but until the entry of the G-man on the scene, a nose-thumbing and hideous gangsterism was rife in Chicago, New York, Kansas City and other metropolitan areas. Most States have laws against kidnaping, but no one filibustered the Lindbergh kidnap measure to death because it was a "violation" of State's rights. Then again, the Federal Mann act has succeeded where the separate States failed.

The Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching law, which was defeated in the session of Congress before the present one, proposed to fine any county in which a lynching occurred $10,000, the money to go to the family of the victim. It proposed also energetic investigation of the circumstances of the lynching, and mandatory removal and punishment of officers who are proved to have been at fault, either through intimidation or cooperation, in the lynching.

It is perhaps harsh and in some respects unfair to exact a $10,000 toll from a county because of the weakness or cowardice of its law enforcement officers—but what has been done to the victim of mad mob action is even more harsh and unfair. Money is inadequate restitution for the still living victims of the lynching: the victim's survivors; but it is better than nothing.

Lynching will not stop until each State has explicit laws against it, phrased as severely and making action as mandatory as the Federal proposals which invariably are defeated. And can any Southerner, familiar with the sociological concept of the average Georgia or Alabama or Mississippi legislator, see these States enacting anti-lynching laws with teeth in it? Don't make us laugh.

The act of mass mob murder constituting lynching is of course the most sickening aspect of the crime. But there is one phase of the whole controversy just about as sickening as lynching itself, and that is the puling and hysterical verbiage of our precious Southern senators, who stand on the floor of that chamber and for days diffuse a noxious smoke screen of words about "State's rights", "defense of fair Southern womanhood", "the white man's burden", et cetera, ad infinitum, ad nauseam, until in despair sociologists wilt and surrender.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 1, 1937

ANTI-LYNCH BILL HEARINGS AROUSE SECTIONAL ISSUE

Southerners Promptly Challenge Points Set Forth by Measure's Proponents

NEGRO CONGRESSMAN ARGUES FOR OWN BILL

Mitchell Measure Much Less Drastic Than Gavagan Proposal; Southerners Cite Sharp Decrease in Lynch-

ings; Ask That States be Let Alone to Solve Problem

The News and Observer Bureau,
1232 National Press Building.

By ROBERT E. WILLIAMS.

Washington, March 31.—Sectionalism flared up in the House judiciary committee today as that body began hearings on the more than 40 anti-lynching bills before it.

The first witness today was Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, Illinois Democrat and the only Negro in Congress, who has a bill of his own.

Attention was centered on the Mitchell bill, which is less drastic than one by James A. Gavagan, Tammany Democrat, who represents a Negro district in New York City. A majority of the House has already signed a discharge petition for the Gavagan bill which will automatically come before the House on April 12.

Indications are that, forced to a choice between two evils and sure one of the bills will be sent to the Senate, where all such measures have heretofore been filibustered to death. Southern Democrats will cooperate in getting the Mitchell bill to a vote before the date set for consideration of the Gavagan bill.

Prompt Challenge.

Southern members of the committee promptly challenged the arguments set forth by the proponents of the legislation which boiled down the contention that it was the duty of the federal government to step in and guarantee citizens equal protection of the law when the states failed to prevent lynching.

Chairman Hatton Sumners, Texas Democrat, called to the attention of practically every witness the fact that lynchings in the United States had decreased from 235 in 1892 to eight in 1933 and with the states making such progress as this in dealing with the crime, he contended a federal law would only irritate rather than help local governments in dealing with the problem.

Mitchell, and those supporting the anti-lynching bill, took the broad position that the federal government should throw out the required protection to members of the Negro race because "most of the states have fallen down in the enforcement of anti-lynching laws."

"We ought to have a federal law as long as one person is lynched," the Negro Congressman asserted in reply to Sumners' statement showing the decrease in lynching.

Mitchell told the committee that most of the lynchings have taken place in the South where the Negro is struggling against the bitterness which is a relic of slavery and the Reconstruction period."

The Negro Congressman reviewed the various state laws which have been enacted to give all persons equal protection of the law and quoted a number of Southern governors, including former Governor Gardner of North Carolina and former Governor Richards of South Carolina, in showing Southern sentiment against lynching.

Hesitates to Speak.

Mitchell said that despite all of this, there were certain sections "where I, a member of Congress, hesitate to speak because I might be lynched."

A former Negro District of Columbia judge, James A. Cobb, was presented by Mitchell to argue the constitutional question involved in the legislation.

Both the Mitchell and Gavagan bills provide punishment, both by fine and imprisonment for any officer who allows a person in his custody to be lynched, and a further provision makes a county in which a lynching takes place liable for payment of a sum of from $2,000 to $10,000 to the family of the person lynched.

Several members of Congress appeared before the committee to urge the anti-lynching legislation and during cross-examination Southerners on the committee were caustic in airing their views on the legislation.

Sumners asked Representative Herman Kepplemann if he did not think in view of the record being made in wiping out lynching, the problem should not be left to the states. The Connecticut Democrat said he thought any state which had pemitted a lynching should ask for the Mitchell bill.

"Our people are getting ashamed of lynchings," Sumners said, "and we are stopping it. The only protection a man can get from a mob is in the community and not from the federal government. We want you people to appreciate our position. We are trying to build up sentiment against this crime and we are afraid of the effect of a federal law."

Kepplemann cited the Lindbergh kidnapping law as the effect of the use of federal power to wipe out crime. Sumners said the difference between that law and the Mitchell bill was that one was based on cooperation between the state and federal governments while the other provides punishment against a state and a county in which a crime took place.

At this point, Representative John E. Miller, Arkansas Democrat, made this observation:

"The trouble with you people is that you have been listening to the propoaganda of organizations which raise money by promoting such legislation as this. The best friend of the Negro is in the South. We will cure this problem if yiu will keep these agitators out. As prosecuting attorney in my state, I had more trouble with representatives of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People than any others in preserving the law."

Perry W. Howard, Republican national committeeman from Mississipi, spoke in favor of the Mitchell bill.

"Lynchings occurred in rural sections and we in the South know the people there fear the federal courts."

Howard said the South was ready for passage of a federal anti-lynching bill.

HOUSE SHOCKED AT LYNCHING DURING DEBATE

A telegram read on the floor of the House Tuesday informing the members of a double lynching in the state of Mississippi created a dramatic situation during the midst of the debate of the Gavagan Anti-lynching bill.

The message was read by Representative Michener (R), of Michigan who related how two colored men were taken from officers, tied to a tree and slowly burned to death with a blow torch. A third man was severely whipped and driven out of Montgomery County, Miss.

During the reading of the telegram a silence fell over the entire House including the packed galleries. A pin dropped could have been heard. The message was read during the heat of debate when foes and friends were arguing for and against the Gavagan measure which is designed to prevent just such a happening.

South Opposed

The South solidly opposed the bill claiming it would be an infringement of State's rights.

Representative Hamilton Fish (R), of New York, carried the brunt of the defense most of the afternoon, defending constitutionality of the measure and citing the need for such a piece of legislation, since certain states were unable to control mob violence. "Today we are trying to do justice under the law and under the Constitution to the colored people of America," Fish declared.

"Every time there is a lynching justice is undermined and blindfolded. Every time there is a lynching domestic intranquility is created. You drive the people out of the community. You terrorize them. You cause them to go to other states in the North. O Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name! Even to taking the lives of American citizens without due process of law.

Lynching Condoned

"The Federal Constitution is the greatest charter of human rights ever devised. It makes for our rights and liberties as a free people. Its aim is to safeguard the inalienable rights of the individual citizen. The preamble of the Constitution defines the principles of our government.

"It defines the reasons for the very existence of the government, and I say to you how, as I said the other day, this question is above and beyond the Constitution. To safeguard and protect the lives of our citizens is the reason for the existence of government itself."

Representative Sam Hobbs (D) of Alabama, one of the opponents of the bill went so far as to condone lynching. He said, "When a guilty man is lynched, the mob has done what the law says should be done! It has done it in an illegal way and criminal way, but the end is the same." He suggested that the bill include gangster killings and race riots.

Civil Rights Attacked

Representative Malcom C. Tarver (D), of Georgia, not only attacked the constitutionality of the Gavagan bill, but attacked Representative O'Connor (D), of New York, who announced his support of a civil rights bill for the District of Columbia. In denouncing the Kepplemann bill for civil rights for Negroes, Tarver said:

"There can be no objection to serious consideration, not alone of questions affecting Negroes, but of all questions affecting the American people. That is laudable.

"But when a high and responsible leader of the Democratic Party announces himself as opposing segregation of the races, which implies, in the way in which he uses it, would imply his favor of coeducation of Negroes and whites and for their coentertainment in hotels and theatres, and his opposition to their segregation in any way; and when an overwhelming Democratic House supports by a sectional vote such a legislative monstrosity as this Gavagan bill, it is time for the people of the South to ask themselves, 'What protection have we from constitutional interference with our handling of our race problems, except as protection may be afforded us by the Supreme Court in its construction of the Constitution?'"

Double Lynching

The lull in the debate created a tense minute when the Michigan member informed the House of the double murder of the two colored men in Winona, Miss. two hours after they had allegedly pleaded guilty to shooting a white man.

Roosevelt Townes, according to Sheriff E. E. Wright, confessed to killing George Windham, a country storekeeper. Townes was tied to a tree near Windham's store and tortured to death by flames from a torch. A second man, only identified as "Bootjack" McDaniels, indicted with Townes, was shot by the 100 members of the white mob when they became tired with the torture of the first victim.

According to dispatches from the scene of the crime, the prisoners were handcuffed and placed in a waiting school bus. Members of the mob piled into the bus and sped northward toward Duck Hill as the men screamed for mercy. The bus stopped near the small store where Windham was fatally shot through a window last December. Then the men were tied to a tree and burned.

Sheriff Alibies

Deputy Sheriff A. J. Curtis said he was helpless as the men came from behind him and pinned his arms. Although he said none of the mobbers wore masks he could not identify them.

Representative Michener interrupted a defense of the legislation by Representative Emanuel Cellar (D), of New York, to shout after the announcement of the Mississippi lynching, "this horrible incident proves that lynching has not ceased."

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners (D), of Texas, had contended that lynching has been on the decrease and no legislation was needed.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

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STRANGE ANTI-LYNCHING MANEUVERS

There seems to be some funny business going on down in Washington in connection with the anti-lynching bill.

Congressman Gavagan, white Democrat representing the Harlem Negro district, introduced an anti-lynching bill WITH teeth in it, approved by the legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, pigeon-holed the bill as he had always said he would do.

Congressman Mitchell, colored Democrat representing Chicago's Southside Negro district, introduced another anti-lynching bill WITHOUT ENOUGH teeth in it, and disapproved by the legal staff of the N.A.A.C.P.

Congressman Sumners refused to call hearings on the Gavagan bill, so Congressman Gavagan collected 218 Congressmen's signatures which forced the Texan's hand.

Congressman Mitchell, colored, sought to dissuade white Congressmen from signing the Gavagan petition, even though they were willing to do so, on the ground that HIS bill was due to be called soon.

Congressman Sumners of Texas, afraid of the STRONG Gavagan bill, hastily called hearings on Congressman Mitchell's WEAK bill. The judiciary committee voted favorably on it—after pulling out some of its few teeth.

Congressman Gavagan's petition becomes effective on April 12 when his STRONG bill MUST be called up for debate and vote.

Congressman Sumners has announced that the WEAK Mitchell bill will be called on April 7 for debate and vote, and hopes to pass it because it IS weak and thus more satisfactory to his kind.

It is not strange that Congressman Sumners, who has always been against an anti-lynching law, should suddenly fall in love with the WEAKEST bill.

It is strange that Congressman Mitchell should favor a WEAK law to stop lynching rather than a STRONG law, and try to prevent a vote on the latter.

It is strange that Republican National Committeeman Perry W. Howard, colored, of Mississippi, should rush to the House judiciary committee hearings and fight against the STRONG Gavagan bill in favor of the WEAK Mitchell bill.

It is strange that Mr. Mitchell of Illinois, Mr. Sumners of Texas, Mr. Howard of Mississippi, and Mr. Walter Chandler (Congressman from Memphis, Tenn.) should fight tooth and toe nail against a STRONG anti-lynching bill and in favor of a WEAK anti-lynching bill.

You would expect colored men, with the anguished screams of 5,000 mob victims ringing in their ears, to favor a STRONG bill outlawing lynching, but you are mistaken.

You would expect Southern Congressmen fired with the ideal of upholding white supremacy to favor a WEAK bill as the lesser of two evils, and you are NOT mistaken.

It is all very strange and confusing, but most ordinary Negroes know they want the strongest anti-lynching law possible, because it is the ordinary Negroes, not the exalted leaders, who get lynched.

Yes, these have been strange maneuvers down in Washington, almost unbelievable maneuvers, which posterity will find difficult to credit.

One things however, stands clear, definite and certain: lynching, like politics, makes strange bedfellows.

Charlottesville, Va. Progress
March 24, 1937

Against Lynching

Among the mass of bills yet to be acted upon by the Senate and House of Representatives is the anti-lynching bill introduced in February by Senators Wagner and Van Nuys. The time is opportune for the enactment of the measure since sentiment is rising steadily in favor of such legislation.

The bill is modeled after the Costigan-Wagner bill which the Senate debated at some length in 1935 and which was vigorously attacked by a group of Southern senators. By its chief provisions it would make punishable, by fines and imprisonment, any legal officer whose negligence leads to the lynching of a person entrusted to his custody or charged with or convicted of any crime. In addition, it places a penalty ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 against any local subdivision of government which fails to protect and give a fair trial to persons accused of crime.

"Encroachment upon States' rights," will be one of the vocal explosions when the bill comes up for legislative consideration. But rather than an assault upon the sovereignty of States it is an open attack upon mob rule. The bill will make possible action by the Federal government which the sober-minded citizens in all communities, North or South, have always wanted.

Those who are put to death and their families are not the only victims of lynchings. It is a menace to the whole community. There is a double breakdown of law—first in permitting the crime and secondly in failing to punish the perpetrators. This breakdown is further precipitated by the all-to-frequent placing of the community's stamp of passive approval on the action of a mob.

Anti-Lynching Bill

LONG awaited action on a Federal anti-lynching Bill takes place in Congress this week.

Bill H. R. 2251, sponsored by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, will be presented to the House of Representatives for debate and vote on April 7. It is endorsed by the House Judiciary Committee.

Bill H. R. 1507, sponsored by Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan of New York, is scheduled to come before the House on April 12. It was forced to a vote through a petition signed by 218 Congressmen, supported by the NAACP and allied organizations. Passage of the Mitchell Bill (H. R. 2251) would kill the Gavagan measure.

Both Bills stipulate identical penalties against a county whose officers are blamed for a lynching, and against officers failing to protect their charges. However, fear that, if passed, the Mitchell Bill would be inefficacious in getting at the root of the evil has been expressed in some quarters.

It is pointed out that the Gavagan Bill is more drastic and provides more fully for all contingencies, whereas the Mitchell Bill, it is claimed, has been doctored by the Judiciary Committee which struck out some of its most important provisions.

When generals fall out over debatable points on the eve of an important battle the chances for an enemy victory are greatly enhanced. Making lynching a Federal crime is the prime objective of those who have sponsored over 60 Bills in the present Congress. Unity and understanding on the eve of Congressional action should be paramount.

Compromise in a perplexing situation sometimes paves the way for greater gains. Any Bill passed by Congress not strong enough to meet the situation can be amended later. The welfare of those exposed daily to mob law, and the gains made in mobilizing public opinion against lynching since 1922, should take precedence over matters of not so vital importance in the fight for federal legislation to curb the evil.

NATION SET ON PASSAGE OF MEASURE

Predictions Point To Fast Action This Week By House

The Defender

See Editorial on Page 5
Mitchell, Gavagan Bills, Page 8

WASHINGTON, D. C., Apr. 9—(Special)—Twelve of the 13 members of the Illinois delegation in Congress at a caucus Monday afternoon voted to support the Mitchell anti-lynching bill scheduled to be debated on the floor of Congress Wednesday of this week. Chicago, Ill.

Representative Kocialkowski is the only member who did not vote to support the measure. Others at the caucus who voted to support the Mitchell bill were Representatives McAndrews, Rigney, Long, Boyer, Arnold, Mitchell, Sabbath, Thompson, Lucas, Fries, O'Brien, and Meeks. 9/12/37

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell, sponsor of the bill which was reported favorably out of the house judiciary committee last Thursday declared he is doing all he can to secure passage of his bill, adding that whether it is his bill or not, he intends to vote for an anti-lynching bill to get through this Congress.

Supporters of the Mitchell and the Gavagan anti-lynching bills, which differ basically, are engaged in a bitter contest to have the House act on the measure which they respectively favor.

The first round was won by the supporters of the Gavagan bill. Led by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, they obtained 218 signatures to the motion of Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, of New York, to discharge the House judiciary committee from consideration of his anti-lynching bill. The last signature necessary to a vote on the motion was obtained on March 29.

The forces supporting the Mitchell bill immediately countered with a vote by the House judiciary committee last Thursday to report that measure favorably. The vote was eight to seven.

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners, of Texas, who has opposed anti-lynching legislation, was to report the Mitchell bill to the House on Friday with a recommendation for its enactment. But supporters of the Gavagan measure were not satisfied with the vote of the judiciary committee to report out the Mitchell bill and obtained from Mr. Sumners a promise to delay his report for a few days. The Defender

According to the supporters of the Gavagan bill, the House judiciary committee first voted to report out that measure. They say after the vote was taken, two members left the committee and later a vote was taken to reconsider the favorable report ordered on the Gavagan bill. It was then that the committee ordered the Mitchell bill favorably reported. Chicago, Ill.

The supporters of the Gavagan bill believe a majority of the House judiciary committee favor that measure. They will seek a reconsideration of the vote ordering the Mitchell bill favorably reported. If they fail, they plan to block passage of the Mitchell bill until April 12 when, under the rules of the House, the Gavagan motion to discharge the judiciary committee from consideration of his bill will be voted upon. If the Gavagan motion prevails, any member who signed it may move that the House proceed immediately to its consideration.

Hearings on the Mitchell bill were held by the House judiciary committee on March 31. Mr. Sumners presided and seemed concerned only with the question whether federal legislation was the best means of stamping out lynching.

Supporters of the Mitchell bill, while admitting it does not go as far as the Gavagan bill, yet they justify their position in fighting for the measure on the grounds it stands a much better chance of getting through both houses of Congress than the Gavagan bill. And, they add, what we want is an anti-lynching law on the federal statutes. It will be much easier to strengthen a law once it has been enacted than it is to enact a particularly offensive one.

Congressman Mitchell is optimistic about the bill. It is his prediction that it will be passed by the house of representatives this week. Quick action also is expected by the Senate, with the President's approval a practical certainty.

The NAACP, which has severely criticized Congressman Mitchell, charging he is being used by Chairman Sumners of the judiciary committee, is standing unflinchingly behind the Gavagan bill.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
April 1, 1937

Tennesseans Back Antilynch Bill

Washington, April 1—(Special)—Representatives Carroll B. Reece of Johnson City and J. Will Taylor of LaFollette were revealed today as members of a House group organized to slash red tape and force consideration of a bill to make lynching a federal offense.

A rule of the House provides that members who are impatient with dilatory tactics employed by an unfriendly committee may take a bill from the committee and call it up for action without preliminary hearings. This requires the signed demand of 218 Congressmen, and Representatives Reece and Taylor helped make up the requisite number. The names are kept in confidence until the full 218 are affixed to the petition.

Representative Joseph Gavagan of New York City, who led the list, will move for consideration April 12, his office announced today.

The bill would penalize officials whose negligence makes a lynching possible. Both criminal and civil penalties are provided.

Greenville, S. C. News
March 31, 1937

WHATS HIS ATTITUDE?

The growing strength in the national House of Representatives in support of federal anti-lynching legislation is clearly indicated by the completion of a petition signed by the requisite 218 members to force immediate consideration of such a measure on the floor of the House.

This is the Gavan bill providing for prosecution in the federal courts of municipal and county officers who fail to protect prisoners from mob violence, along with other punitive provisions, including fines against the counties in which a lynching occurs.

Needless to say all such measures are regarded with detestation in numerous states, particularly in the South whose citizens logically look upon them as aimed directly at this section. Yet Democrats of other sections of the country are strongly urging such measures; and support of them is undoubtedly considered to be politically valuable for members from districts which have a substantial negro vote. The chances of the passage of a measure appear to be fairly good.

Southern people find a keen interest in the question as to what is President Roosevelt's attitude toward such measures. Although that question has been raised many times, no definite word has yet come forth indicating his position. If the President actually opposes this measure his influence would undoubtedly be effective in preventing its passage. But thus far, at least, there has been no evidence that he would like to see it rejected.

ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

Daily Gazette

That a strong, genuinely enforced Federal anti-lynching law is needed to root out an evil which has shamed the Nation for two generations past, has been long evident to intelligent citizens both in the North and in the South. Express

The recent mob city in Mississippi—an exhibition of mob cruelty at its worst—undoubtedly influenced the House's vote (277 to 119) for the Gavagan Bill. Should the Senate concur—as appears likely—the effect would be to throw the Federal Government's weight into the scales against a social condition which persistently has defied State authority.

As the mob—like the underworld gang—has a healthy respect for the "G-men," the very existence of such a Federal law would suffice to prevent at least some lynchings. That is a sufficient reason for completing this legislation. 4-17-37

It is high time Congress acted. This measure, in essentially the form which the House approved—as the Dyer Bill, and later as the Wagner-Costigan Bill—has been before Congress since 1918. During that period 515 persons have been lynched, but except in a single Georgia case (where the victim was a white man) not one mob murderer has been tried and punished as befitted the crime.

Though State and local authorities have received ample warning—through the growing favor which the proposed Federal legislation has commanded in Congress and among citizens generally—they have consistently refused to heed the lesson.

In its latest survey of the record ("Can the States Stop Lynching?") the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reviews the 39 outrages in 12 States during 1935 and 1936. After each it enters with monotonous regularity the notation, "State action—none."

Unless all precedents shall be upset, when the official record of Mississippi's double lynching—revolting as it was—shall be complete, it may be summed up in the same words, "State action—none." For—shocked and stirred as they must be—Governor, trial judge, district attorney and sheriff probably dare not bring the perpetrators to justice, even if they could be identified, which is exceedingly difficult. To follow the dictates of duty under their official oaths in

(modeled after the Lindbergh Anti-Kidnaping Law) giving the Federal authorities jurisdiction over mob crimes if local and State authorities failed to act immediately.

The effect would be to put the G-men on the lynchers' trail.

The very existence of that evil condition affords all the justification needed for Federal intervention. For that reason the injection of partisan or sectional issues into the debate on the Gavagan Bill is deeply regrettable. Fundamental human rights are at stake; the vindication of law and the most elemental principles of justice is involved.

Lynching is murder: the mob tram-

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

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WAGNER, VAN NUYS INTRODUCE
ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Washington, D. C. Feb. 25.- Senators Wagner and Van Nuys today introduced in the Senate a Federal anti-lynching bill S. 1709 modeled upon but varying in some respects from the Costigan-Wagner bill of last year. Upon introduction, Senators Wagner and Van Nuys issued the following statement: P.m. 2-26-37 New York Times.

"With unremitting regularity, lynchings have decreased under every threat of Federal legislation upon the subject and increased whenever the hope of passing such legislation seemed dim. This is proof positive that Congressional action would be an effective check upon a crime which, both in its immediate effects and its potential evils, is one of the greatest threats facing American life and institutions.

"Those who are put to death, and their families, are not the only victims of lynching. In every case, there is a double breakdown of the law, -- first in permitting the crime and secondly in failing to punish the perpetrators. Such a suspension of law is a menace to the whole community concerned; and the menace is even greater in those all-to-frequent instances where the community puts its stamp of passive approval upon the outrages within its borders.

"The tragic events in other lands today teach us that the intolerance manifested by lynching must be quenched before it produces a conflagration; that extra-legal brutality must be stamped out before it grows into legalized brutality; that the defense of all that democratic institutions imply, if it is not to be too late, must begin as soon as the foundations of liberalism are attacked.

"During the past fifty years, five thousand men, women and children have died in orgies of torture surpassing the Inquisition, only because local authorities have failed to prevent and failed to punish. That is why sincere opponents of lynching have long advocated the passage of a Federal anti-lynching law.

"The bill now proposed is simple. It provides for the punishment, through Federal law, of any legal officer whose negligence leads to the lynching of a person entrusted to his custody, or charged with, suspected of, or convicted of any crime. In addition, a penalty ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 is leveled against any local subdivision of government which fails to protect and give fair trial to those suspected or accused of crime.

"This is not an assault upon states rights. It is an attack only upon mob rule. When the Federal government helps the localities to do what the sober element in the localities has always wanted to do, lynching will be stopped.

"The rising sentiment in favor of this measure is unmistakable. A recent nation-wide poll showed the same feeling in every section of our country. Never before have the prospects for the passage of a Federal anti-lynching law been so bright; and no action by the Congress could be more welcome to whose who treasure our century-tested standards of civil liberties."

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
February 21, 1937

THE SOUTH TODAY

The New Anti-Lynching Bill

By VIRGINIUS DABNEY

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Editor's Note: Virginius Dabney, famous Southern editor, author and lecturer, and well-known to readers of this column, has after serving two years as chief editorial writer on the Richmond Times Dispatch, recently been made editor of that paper.

Ever since 1922, when the Dyer anti-lynching bill passed the house of representatives by 230 to 119, and was then filibustered to death by a group of Southern senators, led by the late Oscar Underwood, agitation for legislation of this character has been more or less continuous. An anti-lynching bill sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has just been introduced in both branches of congress. What are its provisions and is it likely to pass?

Apparently the likelihood that congress will adopt an anti-lynching bill is greater now than ever before. The N. A. A. C. P. is putting on all the pressure it can command. It claims to have 261 members of the house and 62 members of the senate already committed—a clear majority in each branch. The overwhelming preponderance enjoyed by the Democrats in congress gives the members of the party from the North and West, where anti-lynching legislation is more favorably regarded, an immense numerical superiority over those from the South. In addition, many Republicans have always been inclined to favor a federal curb on lynching. Had it not been for a seven-day filibuster in the senate in the spring of 1935, the Costigan-Wagner bill would almost certainly have been passed.

* * *

Differs From Former Bill

The bill just introduced, it should be noted, differs from the Costigan-Wagner bill in certain respects. It contains the following provisions:

Any officer who fails to make diligent efforts to protect a prisoner with the result that the prisoner is lynched, or who fails to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of the mob, shall be guilty of a felony, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or a prison term of not more than five years, or both.

Whenever a lynching occurs, and information on oath is submitted to the attorney general of the United States that any officer charged with the duty of protecting the victim has neglected to make diligent efforts to do so, or to apprehend the members of the mob after the lynching, the attorney general "shall cause an investigation to be made to determine whether there has been any violation of this act." If he finds that a violation has occurred, proceedings will be instituted against the officer or officers in the United States District court. There is no provision for federal prosecution of members of the mob.

A governmental subdivision shall be responsible, under the bill, for any lynching occurring within its territorial jurisdiction, and also for any lynching outside that jurisdiction, if the victim was seized within the jurisdiction. Such a subdivision is subject to a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000, unless it can show that proper diligence was used to protect the prisoner.

* * *

May Sue for Damages

Suit for pecuniary damages under the act may be instituted in the United States district court, and shall be brought by the attorney general of the United States, or, if the claimant or claimants elect, by counsel employed by them. The next of kin of the person lynched is paid such damages as are awarded.

What are the principal objections to such a bill? In the first place, many regard it as unconstitutional. Conspicuous among the non-Southerners who are firmly convinced that it is in direct conflict with the organic law is Senator Borah, who has stated many times that it would annihilate the sovereignty of the state.

Another leading objection is that the enactment of the bill might mean a pronounced augmentation of interracial bitterness. The class of whites mainly responsible for lynching would resent the entry of the federal authorities into the field, and the resentment might find expression in more, instead of fewer, outbreaks of mob violence against the Negroes.

It also is contended that the bill is a reflection on the South and that it would interfere with the South's "protection of its womanhood." Senator Smith of South Carolina, in discussing the Costigan-Wagner bill in 1935, spoke of the "very humiliating necessity of going outside the laws at times to vindicate the sanctity of our fireside and the virtue of our women."

* * *

No Federal Action Taken

Some argue, too, that it is not likely the federal courts would be appreciably more effective in securing convictions than the state courts have been. Such critics point out that although a federal court could sit a good many miles away from the scene of the lynching sentiment among the whites there might not be greatly different from that which prevailed in the immediate vicinity of the crime. Opponents of the proposed legislation also cite the indisputable fact that although the horrible and ghastly lynching of Claude Neal in 1934 was an interstate crime, in that Neal was taken from an Alabama jail and lynched in Florida, the federal government took no action.

So much for the arguments against the bill. Whereas there are competent lawyers who question its constitutionality, others regard it as constitutional. Among those may be mentioned Charles H. Tuttle, who filed a brief on behalf of the Costigan-Wagner measure when it was up for passage in 1935, and Prof. Karl N. Llewellyn of the Columbia University law school. Mr. Tuttle contends that "nothing in our national constitution prevents our national government from undertaking such an act of self-preservation, and from protecting itself against the consequences of the break-down of due process of law through state inaction and of wholesale discrimination in the effective protection of mob rule." He cites the section of the constitution which says that the United States shall guarantee to every state "a republican form of government," as well as the Fourteenth amendment, which provides that no state shall deprive any person of "life, liberty or property without due process of law." He likewise directs attention to the section of the same amendment which endows congress with the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

* * *

Few Results Obtained

It is also argued on behalf of the bill that the states have had decades in which to put a stop to lynchings, with few clearly discernible results. The reduction effected since 1920 is substantial, but for the past ten years the number of mob murders committed annually has remained approximately the same. It seems obvious that as long as the present method of handling lynchers—or of not handling them—is unchanged, lynchings will continue. Lynchers have been punished for only three of the 84 lynchings which took place from 1931 to 1935, inclusive, and the penalties in those three cases were light.

We have had such fiendish performances as the burning alive of Henry Lowry at Nodena, Ark., in 1921, and the savage and unprintable tortures of Claude Neal, who was put to death near Greenwood, Fla., in 1934, both lynchings having been announced in advance by the newspapers. Word of the real lynching was broadcast by radio and in the press 14 to 15 hours before it occurred, and a crowd of from 4,000 to 7,000 white persons from several states, including many children, gathered to witness the Negro's prolonged agony. No one was punished.

VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Advocates of a federal anti-lynching bill see in such a measure the only hope of putting a stop to such barbarities. To the argument that lynchings are necessary to protect Southern womanhood, they retort that fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have even been accused of assaults upon white women.

* * *

Many Women Favor Bill

As a matter of fact, various groups of prominent Southern women have declared emphatically that they do not regard lynching as a defense of womanhood, but rather as a blot on Southern civilization. These include the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Woman's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Methodist body endorsed the Costigan-Wagner bill at its annual session in 1934, but the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching opposed the measure. The commission of Interracial Co-operation, headed by Dr. W. W. Alexander, with headquarters in Atlanta, was skeptical for years concerning the value of federal intervention in lynchings, but in 1935 it voted unanimously in favor of a federal anti-lynching law. The Costigan-Wagner bill was indorsed by executive bodies of the Young Women's Association, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Federal Council of Churches, the Protestant Episcopal, Congregational and the American Federation of Labor, as well as by other organizations.

It seems probable, in view of this widespread support, that the anti-lynching bill just introduced will pass. If so, its passage will be due primarily to the failure of most Southern states to stamp out the hideous crime which has disgraced them before the world.

Patrick And Others Should Have Supported Bill, Reader Declares

Editor, The Post:

It is a great surprise that our Rep. Luther Patrick, the so-called liberal, has voted against the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

Of seven Alabama representatives only one, Mr. Boykin of Mobile, did not vote for either side, while six voted against the Gavagan bill.

It is very surprising when they know that the majority of the people of the South and all the leading newspapers of the South favor the anti-lynching legislation.

The country spends millions every year for education, pushes the compulsory school attendance age constantly higher, and each June sees thousands of "educated" people come off the mass education belt. But how good is the product turned out in such large standardized quantities?

What percentage has learned common decency? It was in Owensboro, Ky., last year where the gallows were erected and from every direction came crowds filled with a carnival spirit, with shouts, hisses and a babel of noise.

The neck of a Negro was mapped and immediately after a mad scramble took place by souvenir hunters eager to snatch pieces of the hood placed over his head and the rope with which his life was snapped out.

Now comes the Mississippi lynching. This disgraceful crime that has blotted our history for many years should be wiped out, and our representatives should have voted for laws that would do it.

But we encourage cheap literature, we patronize entertainment designed for morons, we place a premium on scandal and vulgar sensationalism, we pass lightly over religion, we pardon any criminal whose lawyer gets sloppily sentimental. What, then, can we expect?

ELVIRO DI LAURA

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5694

5694

WEAK ANTI-LYNCHING BILL RUSHED OUT BY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Hold Hearing March 31, Report Mitchell Bill Out April 1 To Call for Vote April 7

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.
4-2-37 New York, N.Y.

Washington, D. C. Apr. 2.- The House judiciary committee, which has been a stonewall against anti-lynching legislation for fifteen years, moved with blinding speed this week to rush a weak and ineffective anti-lynching bill to the floor for a vote on April 7.

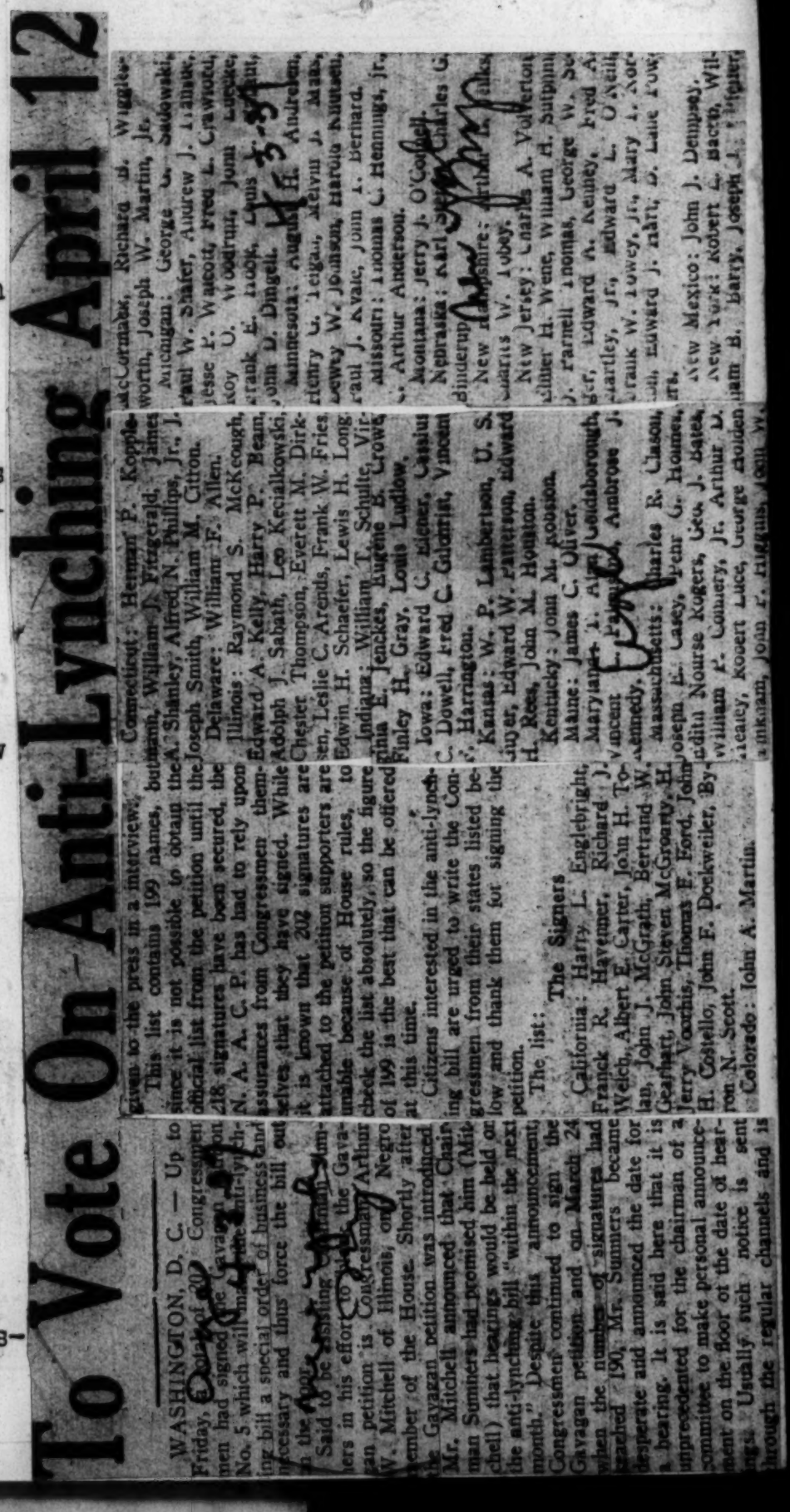
In an effort to block the much stronger Gavagan anti-lynching bill which will be voted upon April 12, Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the judiciary committee, held hearings March 31 on the bill introduced by Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois, and upon other anti-lynching bills.

The next day, April 1, the committee voted 8-7 favorably on the Mitchell bill—with some of the teeth drawn out of it. The original bill was not a strong one, but the committee cut even that. Then it was announced that the weak Mitchell bill would be called up on the floor for a vote on April 7, under the House rules which allow the judiciary committee certain privileges.

All this haste is to kill off an effective bill—the Gavagan bill. The speedy action of the committee was caused by the fact that on March 29, Mr. Gavagan secured the 218th signature on his petition to discharge the rules committee and make his bill a special order of business. When the petition became effective, April 12 was set as the day when the Gavagan bill will be called up for debate and vote.

But, meanwhile, Chairman Sumners, steadfast opponent of the anti-lynching bill, drove forward with his hearing and instant report of the emasculated Mitchell bill. He hopes to pass the weak bill on April 7 and thus kill the stronger Gavagan bill. Congressman Mitchell has been working with Mr. Sumners and has even gone so far as to request congressmen not to sign the Gavagan petition.

The N.A.A.C.P. and other groups working for effective anti-lynching legislation are alarmed over the danger to a real bill and have called upon all interested persons to rush telegrams to congressmen asking them to oppose the emasculated bill offered by the judiciary committee and vote for the Gavagan bill April 12. The Gavagan bill is H. R. 1507.


Lynching April 12
To Vote On Anti-

...Clifton, Marcellus H...
...Evans, Andrew L. Somers, John J. ...
...Delaney, Donald L. O'Toole, Eugene ...
...Keogh, James A. O'Leary, Samuel ...
...Dickstein, Christopher D. Sullivan, ...
...William I. Sirovich, John J. Boylan, ...
...Theodore A. Peyser, Martin J. Kennedy, Sol Bloom, James J. Lanzetta, ...
...Joseph A. Gavagan, Edward W. Curley, Charles D. Millard, William T. ...
...Byrne, Bertrand H. Snell, Francis D. Culkin, Fred J. Douglas, George ...
...Kelly, Walter G. Andrews, Alfred ...
...Beiter, James H. Mead, Daniel A. ...
...Reed, Matthew J. Merritt, Caroline ...
O'Day.

North Dakota: William Lemke, Usher L. Burdick.

Ohio: Joseph A. Dixon, Herbert S. Bigelow, Byron B. Harlan, Arthur W. Aleshire, John F. Hunter, Thomas A. Jenkins, Arthur P. Lamneck, Dudley A. White, Dow W. Harter, Robert T. Secrest, William A. Ashbrook, Lawrence E. Imhoff, Michael J. Kirwan, Martin L. Sweeney, Robert Crosser, Anthony A. Pieger, John McSweeney, Harold G. Hosier.

Oklahoma: Wesley E. Disney, Jack Nichols, Lyle H. Boren.

Oregon: Nan Wood Honeyman.

Pennsylvania: Leon Sacks, James P. McGranery, Michael J. Bradley, Frank J. G. Dorsey, Michael J. Stack, Ira Walton Drew, James Wolfenden, J. Roland Kinzer, J. Harold Flannery, Albert G. Rutherford, J. William Ditter, Benjamin K. Focht, Guy J. Swope, Benjamin Jarrett, Don Gingery, Charles I. Faddis, Charles R. Eckert, Joseph Gray, Robert G. Allen, Charles N. Crosby, James L. Quinn, Herman P. Ebernarter, Henry Ellenbogen, Matthew A. Dunn.

Rhode Island: Aime J. Forand.

South Dakota: Fred H. Hildebrandt, Francis H. Case.

Tennessee: B. Carroll Reece, J. Will Taylor.

Utah: J. W. Robinson.

Washington: Warren G. Magnuson, Knute Hill, John H. Coffee.

West Virginia: Robert L. Ramsay, George W. Johnson.

Wisconsin: Thomas R. Amlie, Harry Southoff, Gardner R. Withrow, Raymond J. Cannon, Thomas O'Malley, Michael K. Reilly, Gerald J. Boileau, George J. Schneider, Bernard ...Gehrmann.

Signatures Promised

In adution to this list, the following members have promised to sign the petition but to date have not done so:

Ralph Brewster, Maine; Richard T. Buckler, Minnesota; Ralph E. Church, Illinois; D. Worth Clark, Idaho; Glenn Griswold, Indiana; Robert P. Hill, Oklahoma; Merlin Hull, Wisconsin; Ed. V. Izac, California; Kent E. Keller, Illinois; Charles H. Leavy, Washington; John Lesinsky, Michigan; Henry C. Luckey, Nebraska; James A. Meeks, Illinois; Charles A. Plumley, Vermont; Elmer J. Ryan, Minnesota; Lloyd Thurston, Iowa.

The following Congressmen pledged the N. A. A. C. P. in writing prior to the November election that they would do everything in their power to bring the anti-lynching bill to a vote and to vote for it, but they also have not as yet signed the Gavagan petition:

Noah M. Mason, Illinois; Leo E. Allen, Edwin V. Champion, Illinois; Samuel B. Pettingill, Indiana; Clyde H. Smith, Maine; Will Rogers, Oklahoma; Oliver W. Frey, Pennsylvania.

A news story appeared in Washington daily papers March 20 and was carried by International News Service to other papers quoting Rep. Patrick Boland of Pennsylvania, Democratic whip, as saying that the House would make history in the near future by passing an anti-lynching bill.

A tremendous amount of volunteer work in visiting and interviewing Congressmen and their secretaries and in checking up daily on the progress of signatures on the Gavagan petition has been done here by the following persons: Mrs. Roberta Hastie, mother of the newly-confirmed federal judge of the Virgin Islands, William H. Hastie; Mrs. Gertrude Stone, member of the executive committee of the District of Columbia branch of the N. A. A. C. P.; Mrs. Dorothy Bristol, wife of a prominent pastor of Camden, N. J.; Miss Marjorie Penney, executive secretary Young People's Fellowship, Philadelphia, Pa.; and Miss Elisabeth Eastman, Washington representative of the national board of the Y. W. C. A.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL TO GET HOUSE VOTE

Judiciary Committee Favors Measure By 8-7

PRISON PENALTY INCLUDED

4-2-37

Legislation Would Provide $5,000 Fine for Government Agency Responsible in Act—Senate Feeling Doubtful

BY GARRETT D. HORNER
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, April 1. — The House judiciary committee late today voted 8 to 7 to report favorably an anti-lynching bill sponsored by Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat, Illinois, the only negro congressman.

The measure carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a $5,000 fine for any state, city or county officer who shall "suffer and permit" a prisoner to be taken from his custody and "injured or put to death."

It is expected to supersede a more drastic bill sponsored by Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, Democrat, New York, which is scheduled for House debate April 12. This measure will be brought up through a vote-forcing petition.

Liable for Damages

The committee struck out of the Mitchell bill provisions which would have made proof of a lynching prima-facie evidence that the officer charged with custody of the prisoner permitted it to occur. The amended measure calls for punishment of local officers only when they give up their prisoners to mobs "without lawful justification or excuse."

It also provides that the county whose officers are blamed for a lynching shall be liable for a maximum of $10,000 damages to the victim's family.

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners, Democrat, Texas, of the judiciary committee, who personally opposes any federal intervention in the lynching problem, indicated the Mitchell bill would be brought up early next week.

Senate Action Doubtful

Democratic leaders have attempted to sidetrack the controversial issue, but were forced to action by majority support of the Gavagan bill petition. Mitchell is confident his measure will pass the House, but Senate action this session is doubtful.

The judiciary committee's vote today was the first favorable action on anti-lynching legislation since 1922. Filibusters have prevented Senate action during the long fight.

Other congressional developments today:

Senator Lynn J. Frazer, Democrat, North Dakota, introduced a bill which would provide a three-year moratorium for home owners threatened with loss of their property through mortgage foreclosure.

It is patterned after the Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage moratorium act upheld by the Supreme Court Monday.

Anti-Lynch Bill Urged In Congress

WASHINGTON, April 13. — (AP) — The House received reports of the lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill, Miss., today in the midst of debate over a Federal anti-lynching bill.

Proponents immediately seized upon the mob action as an argument in behalf of a proposal by Representative Cavagan (D), New York, to impose heavy fines and prison terms on persons figuring in lynchings.

Peace officers who permit prisoners to be taken from them would be subject to punishment, as well as mob members.

Representative Michener (R), Michigan, interrupted a plea by Representative Cellar (R), New York, in behalf of the legislation to read press reports of the Mississippi mob action.

"This horrible incident proves," the New Yorker shouted, "that lynching has not ceased."

Southern Democrats, who branded the legislation as an unconstitutional invasion of the rights of the States, made no immediate reply on the floor, but in statements later denied the crime was a "valid" argument for the bill.

"This lynching is not an indication that the laws of Mississippi condone or approve such acts," declared Representative Miller (D), Arkansas.

"Those participating in this lynching," he added, "have violated the law of Mississippi and the good citizens of the State will resent it. But it is not a case for Federal interference."

A large gallery crowd, including many negroes, heard the debate. At one point Acting Speaker O'Connor (D), New York, halted proceedings after spectators applauded a remark by Representative Fish (D), New York, that he believed in placing "human rights above property rights." Visitors were warned against demonstrations.

Much of the debate centered around constitutionality of the measure. Foes asserted the Constitution did not give the Federal Government the right to intervene, while proponents countered the Government was "morally bound" to see that the constitutional guarantees were preserved where States failed.

4-13-37

Montgomery

condemning what he called an "effort to force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional, and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

In general Republicans joined with Northern Democrats in supporting the bill.

The measure, the first of its kind to pass either House since 1922, would subject an officer who permitted a prisoner to be taken from his custody and injured or put to death to a fine ranging up to $5,000 and to as much as five years in prison.

Likewise, participants would be subject to from five to 25 years' imprisonment.

Asserting the bill was aimed at the South, opponents from that section sought in vain to strike from the bill provisions that would subject counties in which a prisoner was seized or put to death to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000. The money would go to a victim's family.

Action May Be Forced On House Lynch Bill

Substitute

WASHINGTON, March 30.—(AP)—House members completed a petition today designed to force action on an anti-lynching bill.

3-31-37

That action will permit Representative Gavagan (D), New York to call up April 12 a resolution providing that on the day after its adoption his anti-lynching measure shall be a special order of business.

The last of 218 signatures needed to call up the measure, without the necessity for committee approval, went on his petition just before the House adjourned this afternoon.

The anti-lynching bill would provide fines and imprisonment for state officers, found to have been negligent in protecting a person from injury or death at the hands of a mob or riotous assemblage.

Anti-Lynch Bill Passed By House

Substitute

Amendment

Southerners Overridden; Faces Senate Fight

4-10-37

WASHINGTON, April 15. — (AP) — The House overrode bristling Southern opposition tonight to pass the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. It would authorize the Federal Government to intervene in mob crimes to punish participating state officers.

Montgomery

Quadri

After more than six hours' hectic debate, it voted 276 to 119 to approve the measure and send it to the Senate where, sponsors agreed, it faced sterner opposition.

Even as the House voted, Senator Borah (R), Idaho, issued a statement

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Legislation Relating to.

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CONGRESSMAN MITCHELL

Unfortunately, there seems to "bob up" a controversy between Walter White, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell again, over the proper procedure to secure favorable action on an anti-lynching bill, now before the Congress of the United States.

Those who watched the proceedings in the last Congress, will agree with us, we believe, that it was this same sort of controversy between Mitchell and White that had much to do with defeating action on the Anti-lynch bill during the Seventy-fourth Congress; and to have such a controversy brought to the fore at this time, we repeat, is unfortunate, indeed.

Judging upon the information we have in our possession, from both Mr. White and Mr. Mitchell, it looks to us as though it is a mere matter of opinion as to the proper procedure, or the best procedure in this case. We are loathe to charge either with insincerity. Therefore, the question naturally arises, which of the two are in the better position to determine the better course to pursue. By all the rules of the game, Mitchell, being a member of Congress, is in a better position to confer and bargain with his colleagues, than is White. At the same time, Mr. White is in a position to render a great deal of assistance, because he has the backing of the N. A. A. C. P.

In this latest controversy, White takes Mitchell to task because the latter has issued a statement that Chairman Sumners of the Judiciary Committee, has said he will hold hearings on the anti-lynching bills within a short while. Mr. White also expressed his doubts as to the sincerity of such a move on the part of the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. In the meanwhile, Mr. Mitchell has hailed Chairman Sumner's' decision to hold hearings on the anti-lynching bills as a "signal victory." as he is confident that the Committee will report favorably on one of the bills.

Assuming that Congressman Mitchell is telling the truth about this matter, we think we all will agree that a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee will go a long way toward solidifying action in the House. Evidently Congressman Mitchell thinks so. If the Congressman of the First Illinois District has succeeded in getting Chairman Sumners, of Texas, to change his mind, and grant hearings on anti-mob measures, we are inclined to give him credit for being a good statesman, for, after all, it is the man who gets things done who counts. We may further state, that it is our belief that Mr. Mitchell is just as interested in seeing an anti-lynching bill passed, as any other member of the Race. He most certainly understands what it would mean, not only to himself, but to the Democratic administration. Any charge or any inference that he is careless or indifferent to the interests of the Colored people of the United States, must be chalked up as having been born through political propaganda, and should be stamped as false. If, in the light of his experience and judgment, he elects to pursue a course which he thinks will get results, he, in the final analysis, must stand or fall on his own judgment; the public is only in an advisory position.

ST. LOUIS MO. GLOBE-DEMOCRAT
MAR. 7, 1937 M15

Antilynching Legislation

More than 40 antilynching bills are pending in Congress. Most of them would authorize federal authorities to prosecute local officers who neglect to protect prisoners taken into their custody from mob violence or fail to make "diligent efforts" to apprehend and convict mob members. They provide a penalty up to five years imprisonment and a $5000 fine and some of them also would assess a fine of from $2000 to $5000 against any county in which a lynching occurred.

Sponsors and advocates of the bills, among them Senator Wagner and Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, contend that federal intervention is necessary to stamp out these "mob murders." They predict that a coalition of Democrats and Republicans will pass antilynching legislation at this session. Another New York Representative, Joseph P. Gavagan, has introduced a resolution to discharge the Judiciary Committee from consideration of his bill. Mr. Fish's bill is also at rest in the committee, which refuses to act, and he has launched a drive to force action by submitting a petition which, if signed by two-thirds of the House membership, will call the bill out of the committee.

However, here again the Democratic majority is split over the question of state rights. Chairman Summers of the House Judiciary Committee explains that he is opposed to federal antilynching laws because he is opposed to lynching, and he says "federal intrusion into a governmental problem of the states" would halt progress being made in stamping out mob violence. He is from Texas and he expresses the feeling of nearly all Southern Democrats.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, shows that lynchings have declined 90 per cent since 1887 with "growth of the humanitarian spirit of the American people." In the 10 years ending in 1896 there were 1583 victims of mob violence, in the next 10 years they numbered 1030, in the next decade 670 and in the 1927-1936 period 151 persons were killed by mobs. Among the major factors contributing to the decline he mentions the tendency of frontier characteristics in the South to disappear, the radio and paved roads and "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings." Newspapers of the South, which have waged a battle against this particularly shocking and brutal form of lawlessness, deserve much credit for the decline.

EARLY ACTION IS SEEN ON MEASURE IN HOUSE TO PREVENT LYNCHINGS

Bloc of 200 Members Prepare To Force Vote; Hearings Set for Wednesday.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—(UP) House action on anti-lynching legislation within two weeks was indicated tonight under pressure of a bloc of more than 200 members, prepared to force a vote regardless of administration action.

Controversy centered on two major measures. One was the Gavagan anti-lynching bill calling for fines on counties permitting lynchings. The other, the Mitchell bill, would impose fines and jail sentences on law enforcement officers who "without justification" permit a prisoner to be taken away and lynched.

The house judiciary committee arranged hearings starting Wednesday on anti-lynching legislation—scores of proposals which have been politically explosive in recent sessions, and as yet failed to pass congress.

It was authoritatively learned that a major drive to complete a petition to force a vote on the Gavagan bill will be made in the house Monday. The petition, it was reported, carries nearly 200 names of members. A total of 218 is required to force action. Sponsors of the petition said today that they had been promised enough Republican votes to finish the petition Monday. If they succeed, the Gavagan bill will be the order of business in the house on Monday, April 12.

New strategy, however, was under way to block this. It was understood that efforts would be made to have the judiciary committee cut short its hearings so that a compromise anti-lynching bill could reach the floor before April 12.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL FOES SET HOUSE HEARING

Gavagan Already Has 202 Signatures for Action Measure

(Daily Worker Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 25.—Announcement of hearings on anti-lynching legislation was made today in a surprise move to hold off the last few signatures needed to bring the Gavagan bill to the floor of the House.

Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan of New York, sponsor of the anti-lynching bill which corresponds to the Wagner measure in the Senate, was working on the last batch of the 218 signatures necessary to get the bill out of committee.

Suddenly Chairman Hatton W. Sumners of the Judiciary Committee rose and announced that hearings on some 50 anti-lynching bills would begin next Wednesday.

Sumners is from Texas and is violently opposed to all anti-lynching measures.

Proponents of the Gavagan bill interpreted Sumner's move as an attempt to furnish those who had not yet signed the petition, with the excuse that there was no rush since the hearings would soon take place anyway.

202 SIGNATURES

By the time the House adjourned, there were 202 signatures on the petition with 18 to go. The House will not be in session again until Monday, at which time the backers of the bill hope to get the full quota despite Summers' action.

The House Judiciary Committee buried the anti-lynching bill during the last session of Congress. The 218 signatures were not obtained until the closing hours of the session.

It was too late then for the measure to come up on the floor.

Early passage of the bill by the House is required if any headway is to be made in the Senate. It is known that a bloc of some 20 Senators from the southern states is prepared to filibuster the bill to death. The earlier in the session the bill would come to the Senate, the less chance there would be for a successful filibuster.

Force Measure Before Judiciary Committee

Urge Your Congressman and Senators to support Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2—The 218 signatures on the motion of Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan, necessary to discharge the house judiciary committee were announced this week by Rep. Hamilton Fish of New York. Under the house rules this makes debate and vote on the bill mandatory on April 12. However, Chairman Hatton W. Summers, of Texas, recently promised to begin hearings on the bill immediately if the petition, then being circulated, was called in.

Just prior to the announcement that the necessary number of signatures had been obtained, date for hearings on the measure was set for Wednesday. Whether this will be the procedure or whether the hearings will be delayed until April 12 under the petition, has not been revealed. Meanwhile, citizens and representatives from all over the country are crowding the city to testify before the committee.

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2. (Special)—Backed by Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, Democrat of Illinois, open public hearings by the full House Judiciary committee are scheduled to begin this week on one of the 69 anti-lynching bills sponsored by 54 members.

Hearings began at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Fear that the announcement of Rep. Hatton W. Sumners, chairman of the judiciary committee of hearings on anti-lynch legislation, is a subterfuge to block any measure from reaching the floor this session, prompted backing by the N.A.A.C.P. of the move of Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan to discharge the committee.

In the meantime foes of any legal redress for the lynch evil by the United States, are girding themselves for a fight to the end against passage of any bill to outlaw mob murder.

For years the hostilities expressed by Southern representatives toward any bill or measure designed to advance the black man or to put him on a more equal footing as an American citizen have been actively felt, but this is one of the first instances where such hostility has come out into the open. Bitterness on the part of Southerners in defense of "state rights," which can be taken to condone lynching and other kindred evils, is being fought here by a determined cotorie of advocates of racial advancement.

Committee Split On Lynching Bill

Opposition Is Voiced by Several Members of House

WASHINGTON, March 31. (AP)—House judiciary committeemen split sharply over the question of anti-lynching legislation today when public hearings began.

Qualified opposition to the principle of writing federal laws against the crime was expressed by several committee members including Chairman Sumners (D., Tex.).

Representative Guyer (R., Kan.), ranking minority member, and others who had introduced some of the 69 anti-lynching bills now pending were outspoken in their support of such legislation.

Representative Hobbs (D., Ala.) declared it would be "utterly impossible" for the federal government to afford protection to persons threatened with mob violence.

Representative Mitchell (D., Ill.), the only Negro in congress, said he believed enactment of the proposed legislation would "stimulate the effort being made to stamp out lynching."

Mitchell Anti-Lynching Bill Hearings Held

House Subcommittee Hears Argument in Favor Of Law Against Mobs

An effective federal law to prevent lynching, yet so designed as to offer no offense to the South where the majority of the 5,135 lynchings have occurred since 1882, was presented to the House subcommittee on the Judiciary by a group of prominent persons Wednesday during hearings on the Mitchell Anti-Lynch Bill.

The bill named in honor of Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, of Illinois who introduced the measure was favored by all who testified except two who stated that they were supporting the Gavagan bill which is scheduled to come on the floor of the House April 12.

However, all of those to speak before the committee were in favor of legislation to effectively stamp out "America's most horrible crime."

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advance of Colored People, and Charles H. Houston, chief of the legal staff of the same organization, said that while they are favoring the bill introduced by Representative Gavagan, they feel that some legislation passed by the present Congress is better than none.

They pointed out that they are of the opinion that the Mitchell bill which states that persons taken from peace officers and lynched is not sufficient for the officers may delay arrest of those who may be negligent so as to give a mob opportunity to take its course. Gavagan's bill corrects this possible happening.

Mitchell Introduces Witnesses

Mitchell opened the hearing with a statement in favor of his measure and introduced the witnesses. The first heard was Judge James Cobb who spoke of the constitutionality of the measure. He was followed by Attorney Perry W. Howard who spoke on the bill's practicality. Attorney William E. Dilly, Chicago was the third speaker. He followed Mrs. Vivian Mason, administrative assistant in the Emergency Home Relief Bureau, New York City; J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of Elks; William L. Houston, president of the Washington Bar Association; Hon. [illegible] Reynolds, former Pennsylvania State legislator; Judge Edward W. Henry, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Eleanor Fowler, legislative assistant of the Women's League for Peace and Freedom, and Judge William C. Hueston, commissioner of education for the Elks, were others to testify.

Federal Law Threat

Walter White pointed out to the committee that the decrease in lynching during the past few years was due entirely to the vigorous agitation for Federal legislation and cited figures showing that in 1935 practically all of the lynchings occurred after Congress had recessed.

Representative Hatton W. Sumner, of Texas, chairman of the subcommittee, took exception to a statement by William L. Houston that 13 lynchings occurred in 1936. Sumner said he was accepting the figures of the department of research of Tuskegee Institute which recorded only nine. Houston was using figures compiled by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

George H. Ryeraw, commander of the James Reese Europe American Legion, read a resolution of the District Department of the Legion and its national convention which opposed mob law.

The hearings will end today Thursday, and the committee will go into executive session.

punishment by self-appointed commission without trial by law.—Funk & Wagnalls New Standard Dictionary of the English Language.)—*Editor.*

THE APRIL FOOL BILL KILLED

The April Fool, "Mitchell Anti-Lynch bill" met with a crushing defeat in the House of Representatives on last Wednesday. This was a great victory for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which is advocating the enactment of the Gavagan bill, anti-lynching legislation with teeth in it. Congressman Mitchell in this instance, like in all others, ran true to form. We are surprised, however, once an Uncle Tom always an Uncle Tom.

The pity of the matter is that Negroes have to carry such burdens as Mitchell has proved to be.

"You Can Go to H . . ." Mitchell Tells Colleague

It was a much riled Arthur W. Mitchell, representative from Chicago, who strode from the House last Wednesday, after the defeat of his anti-lynching bill by a vote of 256 to 122.

So angry was Mitchell over the snub to his proposed legislation and the "deception" that had been practiced on him that when J. Burwood Daly, Democratic congressman from Pennsylvania, approached Mitchell the latter refused to talk with him.

"I thought you were a gentleman," remarked Daly.

"You can go to hell!" replied Mitchell.

Lynch Law

By JOHN H. ROACH—

May I commend you on your excellent article entitled "Lynch Law" which appeared in the issue of March 20. As a resident of San Jose, California, I know the "feel" of a lynch crowd. I watched men batter down the jail door as officials stood by helpless; I watched crowds of men, women and children pouring into town as news of the lynching spread.

It takes a great deal of will-power to resist the lynch feeling that drives a crowd to murder, and I saw many a "respectable citizen" succumb to it. I expected to see immediate steps being taken for an antilynch law in our State. Instead, our pitiful Governor commended the crowd on its inhuman murder.

Your article makes clear the issue. In your usual lucid and all-inclusive style, you have cleared up a great many doubts that were in my mind and have stated the whole question of antilynching laws plainly.

San Jose, California.

By DR. J. B. VIERS—

In the article "Lynch Law" in the issue of March 20, you state that Massachusetts and four other States have never known a lynching.

I have heard some bad things about a town called Salem. . . . Lusk, Wyoming.

The nineteen persons of Salem, Massachusetts, who were hanged as witches in 1692 were afforded the benefit of trial and sentence. Though the spirit of these hangings was much the same as more recent mob murders, they were not victims of lynch law. (Summary

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FOR FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch:

The Times-Dispatch favors the enactment of the Federal anti-lynching bill just introduced in the House of Representatives and shortly to be introduced in the Senate. It sees no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action.

If every state would enact an anti-lynching law similar to that which Virginia passed a decade ago, lynching could be, almost, if not wholly, obliterated. The Virginia law makes lynching an offense against the State as a whole, subjects all participants in lynchings to charges of murder, and authorizes the Governor to have the attorney-general take charge of prosecution and to spend any sum he (the Governor) deems wise in convicting the guilty parties. There has not been a single lynching in the Old Dominion since that law was placed on the statute books.

But it has become plain that few, if any, of the Southern States will follow Virginia's legislative example. Although the Dyer anti-lynching bill of 1922 and the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill of 1935 would almost certainly have passed, but for the filibusters of Southern senators, most Southern States seem to have learned nothing from these episodes. Southern senators on both occasions expressed profound resentment over the possibility that the Federal Government might be permitted to interfere in the affairs of the States, but they do not seem to have done anything to make such intervention unnecessary.

This newspaper's primary objective is to put a stop to the seemingly endless series of mob murders which have disgraced the South and America before the world. That impresses us as far more important than the preservation of something generally referred to as "State sovereignty" or "State's rights." As long as State's rights are appreciated by the States, and the administrative authorities of the States show that they recognize the duties which accompany the exercise of such rights, this newspaper believes in respecting those rights. But when the phrase, "the rights of the States" degenerates into a mere shibboleth behind which the State and local authorities can ignore and flout the law of the land by permitting lynchers to go unpunished year after year, then The Times-Dispatch believes that intervention by the Federal Government is not only desirable but necessary.

The bill just introduced in Congress provides for such intervention. It provides that any responsible peace officer who fails to make adequate efforts to protect a prisoner from a mob, or to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of the mob after a lynching, shall be guilty of a felony, and be fined up to $5,000 or imprisoned up to five years, or both. When the attorney-general of the United States is advised through an affidavit from a citizen that an officer is guilty of either of these offenses, the attorney-general initiates an investigation by Federal G-men to ascertain whether the anti-lynching law has been violated. If the conclusion is in the affirmative, action is instituted in the United States District Court against the peace officer or officers. There is no provision for prosecution of members of the mob.

It also is provided in the bill that a county shall be responsible for a lynching occurring within its boundaries, and that a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 may be levied against the county by the United States District Court, and paid to the heirs of the person lynched. If a county can show that its peace officers exercised due diligence in the protection of the victim of the mob, it is not subject to this fine.

Such, briefly stated, are the terms of the act. Some constitutional authorities, including Senator Borah, regard the measure as destructive to State's rights, and hence unconstitutional. Others take the opposite view, and hold that the bill does not conflict with the fundamental law.

Professor Karl N. Llewellyn of the Columbia University Law School has studied the measure carefully, and has rendered an opinion that it is clearly constitutional. He says, in part:

"The Federal Government has the power and the implicit duty to assure to its citizens orderly, due, legal and even procedure in criminal cases at the hands of responsible officials. When States or officials or subdivisions of States are derelict in this regard, the Supreme Court, as one spokesman of the Federal Government will interfere to correct. Congress can intervene to prevent the need for correction, and especially to prevent such dereliction as is irremediable. The general scope of the measure has a clear basis in the due process and equal protection clauses."

On this, as on many other constitutional questions, there is room for difference of opinion, of course. Professor Llewellyn may be wrong, and Senator Borah may be right. But we should like to see the bill enacted and carried to the United States Supreme Court for a ruling. If the Supreme Court holds the law invalid, that will be unfortunate. But something must be done to end the present intolerable situation, and the measure just introduced seems the best way out.

We have seen no formal pronouncement of late on this subject from the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, with headquarters in Atlanta. In the spring of 1935, when the Costigan-Wagner bill was under consideration, the commission met, with its chairman, Dr. W. W. Alexander, presiding, and unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the enactment of Federal antilynching legislation. The commission, which is composed of 130 representative Southerners in 13 States, declared without a dissenting voice that "in not one case in 10 is an effective effort made by the (State or local) authorities to identify and prosecute the members of lynching mobs." It went on to say that "even in the rare cases in which such efforts have been made, indictments have seldom been obtained, and convictions have usually proved impossible."

It is clear, then, that lynching will not be wiped out until there is a new spirit abroad in the land, or until State and local authorities bestir themselves far more vigorously than they have done heretofore. We see no likelihood that either will occur in the measurable future.

One of the most convincing demonstrations that this is true was given in the autumn of 1934, when Claude Neal was taken from an Alabama jail and lynched in Florida. At least 15 hours' notice was given in the nation's press and over the radio that Neal was to be lynched, and from 4,000 to 7,000 white people gathered among them many small children. Neal was put to death with the most unspeakable and unprintable tortures. No one was even arrested.

As long as State and local officials are indifferent to these barbarities, they will continue to occur. We see no alternative but to enact a Federal law with teeth in it, and to let the G-men and the Federal courts go into action.

Negro Congressman Assails 'Lynch' States

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Representative Arthur W. Mitchell, Illinois Democrat, the only Negro member of Congress, asserted today that "States fighting passage of a Federal law are doing nothing themselves to stamp out lynching." He said Federal action is necessary to stamp out the evil.

A coalition drive of Senators and Congressmen who favor early passage of an anti-lynching law is being blocked in Congress by Southern Democratic leaders led by Chairman Hatton W. Sumners, Texas Democrat, of the House Judiciary Committee.

"STATES' RIGHTS" ARGUMENT

More than 40 anti-lynch bills demanding punishment of local officers who fail to prevent mob violence and mob murders are pending in the Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Robert F. Wagner, New York Democrat, Rep. Gavagan, New York Democrat, and a number of other Democrats from Northeastern states have joined with Republicans in an attempt to override efforts of Southern Democratic leaders to block Congressional action.

Rep. Sumners of the Judiciary Committee, which is sitting on the bills, said he was opposed to the Federal anti-lynching bills "because I am opposed to lynching."

He used the discredited argument that such laws violate state rights.

Wagner challenged "Constitutional objections" that Federal intervention would violate state rights. "Let those who raise these objections remember that our Constitution not only sets up distinct Federal and State powers," he said, "but guarantees that all shall have the right to a fair trial and not be summarily put to death."

Congressman Hits Number Introduced

Congressman Mitchell Says His Bill May Pass In First Session

2-25-37

The outlook for the passage of anti-lynching legislation looks favorable for this first session of the 75th Congress, according to Congressman Mitchell, if the legislative hopper is not cluttered up with too many anti-lynching bills.

Many Congressmen have received bills to be introduced, thereby dissipating the efforts of those endeavoring to concentrate upon a given bill, it was said.

Congressman Mitchell in an interview as to the outlook for the passage of an Anti-Lynch Bill by the House during the first session of the 75th Congress said: "There is no doubt in my mind but that there exists in the House sufficent friendliness and interest on the part of the membership to pass a bill! He said that he had personally interviewed practically half the membership already and found them very responsive to this legislation.

"The one danger" he pointed out, "is what I regard as the unwise tactics resorted to by Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People." He said, "In my opinion the manner in which Walter White is proceeding will tend to defeat the measure rather than to bring it strength. In that connection." He cited the fact that Mr. White is now doing what he did last year—sending any number of Anti-Lynching bills to the various members of the House, requesting them to introduce the bills. Mitchell added:

"The following is copy of a letter which one of the Congressmen has written Mr. White, and it is hoped that it will have the effect of bringing to him the necessity of seriously considering our effort and concentrating in such a way as to pass this legislation without further ado."

"I am in receipt of your letter of January 25. . . support of legislation for Federal aid to the states in stamping out lynching.

"I doubt the efficacy of introducing wholesale an anti-lynching bill in view of the fact that a similar proposal, H. R. 2251, by Mr. Mitchell of Illinois, will no doubt be given precedence by the House Committee on the Judiciary. I have worked along with Mr. Mitchell on this matter, and feel that he is getting somewhere in his effort to bring this bill finally before the Congress. I have every reason to believe that Chairman

sumners of the House Judiciary Committee, will cooperate with Mr. Mitchell and afford hearings so that action can be taken. My only hope is that an effective anti-lynching bill will be reported. If there is anything further that you want me to do, I will be glad to co-operate.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
February 26, 1937

Anti-Lynching Law Goes Up Again

Some of the Washington writers see a change in attitude in the south toward lynching as a new bill aimed at extra-legal executions comes up for attention. Prospects of the passage of this bill are considered bright but that is due not so much to a change of attitude in the south as to a change of subject matter in the bill.

What southern senators filibustered to prevent was not a statute to outlaw lynching, which already is contrary to law and subject to severe penalties, but a statute to penalize the entire citizenship of each county in which a lynching might occur. The present measure does not provide for such a penalty.

The objections to the former anti-lynching bill were obvious. It provided a penalty, as we recall about $10,000, to be assessed against each county in which a person was lynched. Such a provision is unjust. Frequently persons are lynched in one county by residents of other counties and most lynchings are carried out by small bands without the knowledge of the general citizenship until the act is done. Why then should the taxpayers of a county be fined to atone for the act of what may have been an irresponsible group of non-residents?

In the recent Marianna lynching the victim was taken from a jail in Alabama and few know in which county or even in which state he was lynched. His body was left in Marianna but that does not prove he was killed there. Would it be fair, under such circumstances, to penalize Jackson county?

The bill now under consideration [illegible] officers who, through

their negligence or failure to act permitted lynchings. Our present laws are sufficiently broad to cover such points and the need for such a federal statute is not acute. However, there are fewer objections to such a statute.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 23, 1937

Their Contract With Negroes

Were The News and Courier a New Deal newspaper it would advocate federal anti-lynching legislation, so called, pending in congress.

The New Deal's central thought and move are to add to the federal power, the Washington power, and take power from the states. It is hostile to state government, it hates government at home by home people. This principle it would apply in practice in dozens of ways, and a law by which a county sheriff could be arrested for not preventing a lynching, fined $10,000 the county fined, the court house sold for the debt, all this in the United States courts is just one of the ways.

The Southern New Deal Democrats knew well what they were doing in Philadelphia last June.

The Southern senators who postponed the Wagner-Costigan bill by a filibuster knew that it was published that President Roosevelt favored the bill.

The Southern senators knew that Mrs. Roosevelt was an active supporter of the bill. In that she was within her rights. We censure no one for exercising the right of opinion and political action in this republic.

The Southern leaders have known always that the bill once passed would be approved by the Democratic president, or at least they have had every reason to believe it.

The Southern leaders in the Philadelphia convention saw Arthur Mitchell, Democratic negro congressman, prominent in the convention. They knew the intimate alliance between Chairman Farley, Senator Guffey, Governor Earle, Senator Wagner, Senator Van Nuys and their crowd on the one hand and the Northern negroes led by Mitchell, Rainey (son of a "Reconstruction" congressman of Georgetown, S. C.) and the Pittsburgh negro editor on the other.

Well, these Northern negroes delivered the goods November 3, didn't they? They turned in hundreds of thousands of votes for Roosevelt and Garner.

Shall not the Democrats pay their debt to the negroes? Shall they hold back the goods?

Hamilton Fish, Republican, white man, has introduced an anti-lynching bill. It has always been a Republican measure. Dyer, Republican, representing a "black district" of St. Louis, introduced the bill fourteen years ago. Where is the Republican, except Borah, or the loyal New Deal Democrat who is against this measure?

Were The News and Courier a New Deal Democrat it would, as A. B. Williams used to say, "stand to the rack, fodder or no fodder" and be loyal to its Northern Democratic allies and friends, white and black, Wagner, Guffey, Gavagan, Mitchell and the rest. They vote for the AAA. They vote for "soil conservation." They vote for whatever "benefits" South Carolina receives, WPA, PWA, relief, and so forth.

Senator Byrnes, Representative Fulmer, and other New Deal congressmen of South Carolina, from their point of view, would be entirely consistent and justified in supporting a so-called federal anti-lynching bill, and so would Governor Johnston.

The argument against the bill presented by the Texan, Sumners, is conclusive from The News and Courier's point of view—but The News and Courier is an outcast Southerner, not a Roosevelt-Ickes Democrat. Mr. Ickes is a member of the cabinet, and he told negroes in convention in Baltimore during the last campaign that Mr. Roosevelt is the first president since Lincoln to realize that the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments would as well not be in the constitution unless enforced.

Unless Secretary Ickes misrepresented Mr. Roosevelt that means that he would sign a "force bill," establishing federal control of Southern elections, if congress passed it.

Southern leaders in congress will have some support at home if they back the federal anti-lynching legislation. There are white people who believe in it. That The News and Courier believes it foolish as well as infamous does not make it so. There are also some Southerners who do not care what legislation is enacted as long as the "benefits" come and "trade is better."

The News and Courier has neither part nor lot with any Southern man in congress who supports this anti-lynching legislation but it will censure no New Dealer congressman who does. It will say that he is consistent and is doing his part in delivering the goods, the goods promised by Wagner, Farley, Mitchell, to the negro Democrats.

The News and Courier will not stultify itself by criticising New Deal Democrats of the South for refusing to stultify themselves.

His Own Fault

If Arthur W. Mitchell is believed to have played into the hands of lynching's defenders, it is his fault. When first elected to Congress, he made the mistake of leaning over backward to [illegible] being considered spokesman for his people, as his predecessor, Oscar DePriest, had been even though strictly speaking both men represented only the first Illinois district. It was but natural that Mitchell, as the only Negro federal legislator, would be looked to as the one to reflect his people's opinions on public matters.

Lynching is a national shame, as the United States realizes each time that Germany and other nations refuse its moral leadership because it is itself a lawless nation. For that reason, Mitchell, even with no mandate to speak for Negroes generally, is duty bound to oppose lynching with all his might for the sake of his district because both races are helped by law enforcement and hurt by disregard of it.

Mitchell's anti-lynching bill was used to forestall the Gavagan bill, the measure which has the support of the opponents of lynching. For that reason he will have a hard time explaining his indifferent support of the stronger bill and his cooperation with the Texan who refused to let any anti-lynching legislation come of his committee until a demand of 218 Congressmen forced him to act.

Having said he represents the first Illinois district, that is what Mitchell should do. If the past was coincidence and not intent, he has need to help the Gavagan bill which is in keeping with the principles and practices of the people of his district, both white and black. If he lets himself be the pliant tool of southern defenders of lynching, and stops with that

decision and principle to escape its consequences. He must act with decision and principle to escape its consequences. He will be despised not only by those whom he has disappointed but also by those who have used him. That first announcement of his was a trap for his own

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Concord, N. C. Herald Observer
February 6, 1937

FOR ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Lynching is one of the greatest crimes against Southern civilization, and The Herald-Observer favors the enactment of the Federal anti-lynching bill which is now before Congress. The measure has already been introduced in the House and will be introduced shortly in the Senate.

Such a federal law would already have been enacted had it had not been for the hue and cry raised by some of the Southern senators who took the position that such would be an invasion of "state sovereignty" or "state rights."

This newspaper believes in respecting state's rights when the States show appreciation of these rights, and when administrative authorities recognize the duties which accompany these rights. But when any State permits lynchers to go unpunished, and this seems to prevail in a number of Southern States, then it seems to us that intervention on the part of the Federal Government is not only desirable but necessary.

The bill now before Congress provides for Federal intervention. It provides that any responsible peace officer who fails to make adequate efforts to protect a prisoner from mobs, or to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of a mob after a lynching, shall be guilty of a felony, and be fined up to $5,000 or imprisoned up to five years or both.

This bill also provides that a county shall be responsible for a lynching occurring within its boundaries, and that a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 may be levied against the county by the United States district court, and paid to the heirs of the person lynched. Of course, if a county can show that its peace officers did all in their power in the protection of the victim of a mob, it is not subject to this fine.

There are many eminent constitutional authorities who see in this bill a gross violation of state's rights. Nevertheless we think the measure should be adopted, and carried before the Supreme court for a ruling. If invalidated that will be unfortunate. At least it will be a fine start toward ending lynching.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
February 22, 1937

In the eight years since Virginia passed its anti-lynching law under spur of editorials for which Editor Louis I. Jaffe, of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, won a nobly deserved Pulitzer prize, there has not been a single lynching in Virginia. That is something for other southern legislatures now in session to consider as demand for a federal law become more and more widespread. Lynching is something which the south can and should defeat with its own force, law and intelligence.

LYNCH LAW: Congress Toys with Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-lynching Bill

3/28/37 Literary Digest

Laconic political observers often bemoan that whenever Congressmen flirt with liberalism, their initial gesture is to introduce an antilynching bill. New York Cit

Submerged in Supreme Court speculation, the seventy-fifth Congress already has been swamped with such bills. Since the first Representative thumped into his seat early in January, more than fifty bills have wiggled into the House hopper, more are anticipated every day.

Unofficial statisticians in Capitol corridors list antilynch measures as "reg'lars" along with the bills annually introduced to make Pulaski day an annual holiday; often heard of, seldom followed through.

Presidents Wilson, Harding and Coolidge urged antilynch legislation. In 1933, President Roosevelt publicly reproved the late Governor Rolph of California for "approving disrespect of the law" in the San José mob violence.

At present, the Wagner-Van Nuys Bill is in the offing, stands a fighting chance. Like similar measures at other sessions, it is "a bill for the better assurance of the protection of persons within the several States from mob violence and lynching, and for other purposes."

Negro Vote—Reason for a possible switch in government sentiment for the 1937 proposal is that the Negro vote is now solidly in the Democratic column, can exercise wide political power. From the border States of the South, influential newspapers are likewise favoring its passage.

Government leaders expected to argue pro and con on the issue express divergent views:

Says Sen. Robert Wagner: "The rising sentiment in favor of a Federal anti-lynching law admits no sectional bounds."

Says Sen. William Borah: "I believe in the objective. I believe in what this bill would like to accomplish. But to my mind, this bill completely annihilates State sovereignty. . . . I do not regard it as a sectional bill, but I do regard it as in conflict with the most fundamental principles upon which this Republic rests, and in violation of the spirit and purpose of our dual system of Government."

Says Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, only Negro member of Congress: "States fighting passage of a Federal law are doing nothing themselves to stamp out lynching."

Says Sen. Henry F. Ashurst, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I am opposed to lynching. I am in favor of legislation making lynching a Federal offense."

Says Rep. Hatton W. Sumners, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee: "I am opposed to the antilynching bills, not because I favor lynching, but because I am opposed to lynching. The progress being made under State and local

URGE SIGNATURES ON GAVAGAN HOUSE PETITION

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.
3-5-37 New York, N.Y.

Washington, Mar. 5.- All friends of the federal anti-lynching bill are urged to write their congressmen in the House urging them to sign the petition No.5 of Congressman Joseph A. Gavagan, of New York, filed March 3 seeking 218 signatures to discharge the Rules Committee from consideration of his resolution No. 125. This resolution sought a special rule to make the Gavagan anti-lynching bill a special order of business on the floor of the House, and to take the bill out of the jurisdiction of the house judiciary committee, where it has been buried due to the hostility of the committee chairman, Congressman Hatton Sumners of Texas. Congressman Sumners has declared he will never grant a hearing on an anti-lynching bill. The Gavagan resolution seeks to circumvent Congressman Sumners by making the bill a special order of business on the floor of the House, without a previous hearing or vote by the judiciary committee. The resolution is property of the rules committee, which has not acted, therefore as his third move Congressman Gavagan has filed this petition No.5 to discharge the rules committee.

It is thought that the 218 signatures to Mr. Gavagan's petition will be secured quickly if voters back home will write their congressmen calling their attention to the Gavagan petition (No.5) and asking them to sign it.

This action will speed consideration of the federal anti-lynching bill which is receiving increased attention even in the face of the hot debates over the proposals for changes in the supreme court.

county responsibility in the development of public opinion and public purpose, is a most favorable indication with regard to crime suppression."

No Hearings—Like many other lawmakers from below the Mason and Dixon Line, the Texan does not want to see the authority for *lex talionis* taken from the South, placed in Washington. Sumners makes no bones about the fact that there will be no hearings on the Wagner-Van Nuys bill if he can help it. On the other hand, Rep. Hamilton Fish, Jr., has already started a petition to discharge the issue from committee.

According to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, unflagging supporters of antilynch legislation, 261 Congressmen have signified their support of adequate Federal jurisdiction in this question.

From this organization and the Department of Research at Tuskegee Institute further facts are available on the subject.

There have been 5,106 lynchings in the United States since 1882; ninety-nine victims have been women. From 1919 to 1936 inclusive, twenty-five persons were roasted alive and twenty burned after the victims were lynched.

Only one-sixth of the victims have ever been accused of any sort of sex crime. Approximately 200 victims have been proved to be innocent after their deaths.

In 99.2 per cent. of the deaths, no lynchers have been convicted.

So far, in 1937, there had been but a single lynching; an eighteen-year-old Negro at Abbeyville, Alabama. In 1936, there were nine: five in Georgia, two in Arkansas, one apiece in Florida and Mississippi. This is the smallest yearly number on record; the highest, 250, in 1892.

Texas, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana have been the leading sites, whereas New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont have never known a lynching.

Virginia Law—A decade ago, Virginia passed a law making lynching an offense against the State as a whole, subjecting participants to murder charges. To bring about necessary convictions, the Governor may spend any sum he thinks advisable and enlist the Attorney General's aid. There has not been a single lynching in the Old Dominion since that law was placed on the State books.

Since 1887, the Federal Government, through the Department of State, has paid $1,000,000 to foreign countries for damages suffered by their nationals through mob violence here. On January 8, 1902, Rep. Edgar Dean Crumpacker, of Indiana, introduced a bill providing for a penalty for persons aiding in the lynching of an alien.

Such persons were to have been tried in Federal courts—a principal point in the 1937 Wagner-Van Nuys Bill. This would strike at the long string of cases decided by verdicts of "death inflicted by parties unknown to the jury" in localities where enforcement of State antilynch laws is not observed.

At first, any such bills introduced in Washington were attacked as unconstitutional because of invasion of State police power rights. Then advocates invoked the Fourteenth Amendment, Sec. 5. In more recent years, along with the definite establishment of a Federal police power right in certain cases, the Fourteenth Amendment clause has been dropped.

So far, however, several hundred antilynch bills have produced thousands of pages of committee proceedings and *Congressional Record* speeches, but not one Federal statute. Some of the bills wind up in the Judiciary Committees of the House and Senate and are forgotten.

HOUSE TO CONSIDER ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

WASHINGTON, April 12.—(AP) The House decided today to call up the Gavagan federal antilynching bill for debate tomorrow. It voted, 281 to 103, to discharge its rules committee from further consideration of the legislation and then approved a resolution placing a measure introduced by Representative Gavagan, Democrat, New York, before the chamber tomorrow for six hours' debate.

The house last week refused to consider a less drastic bill offered by the only negro member of congress, Representative Mitchell Democrat, Illinois.

Keystone

At Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., morbid curiosity drew men, women and children to view the hanging body of Rubin Stacey, Negro accused of stabbing a white woman with a pen-knife . . . lynchings continue

Lake City, S. C., News
March 4, 1937

Week's News in Brief

Washington, Feb. 25—A federal anti-lynching bill, similar to that sponsored unsuccessfully for several years by former Senator Edward P. Costigan (Democrat, Colorado) was introduced in the senate today by Senator Robert F. Wagner (Democrat, New York) and Frederick Van Nuys (Democrat, Indiana). Subject of controversy in the last two congresses, the program in the past has usually seen Southern congressmen lined up almost solidly against such legislation. In a joint statement, Wagner and Van Nuys explained the program would provide punishment for any legal officer "whose negligence leads to the lynching of a person entrusted to his custody". It would levy a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 against any political subdivision "which fails to protect and give fair trial to those suspected or accused of crime".

ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS

To The Commercial Appeal:

I note your editorial with reference to the anti-lynching bills which appeared in your paper and which is very much appreciated.

Somebody asked me the other day about these bills, and I said they are a little different, but have the same objective. You have located the objective. The distressing thing is to find some Southern editors, and organizations like the American Legion, Y. M. C. A., etc., indorsing these bills.

The only possible effect, aside from the demoralizing hurtful effect on lynching itself, is to move us very definitely and very far toward the governmental vassalage of the state and the small units of government in so far as independent responsibility is concerned. While that is important, the effect upon the governmental policy is far more important. The capacity to govern, like all other capacities, is dependent for its development upon its exercise. Nature will not only not give additional capacity when the capacity possessed is not exercised, but it takes away the capacity which is not used.

Fundamentally speaking, whether we are to have a free government or a dictatorial government in this country depends not upon what may happen to the words in our written Constitution, nor upon anything other than the governmental capacity of the people. If that is preserved the present Constitution could be utterly destroyed and we could formulate another constitution, but if governmetal capacity is destroyed our Constitution becomes of no more value than is the constitutional documents in the countries which have borrowed our Constitution, but which have never been able to operate a system of government under it; first, because the Constitution was not rooted in their governmental concepts; and second, because they did not have the governmental capacity to make its provisions effective.

Except by conquest, peoples who have the privilege to operate systems of self-government never fall under the government of the dictator until they have so degenerated in government capacity that they are not able longer to provide in themselves an agency through which the work of government can be done.

Since there has to be government, that fact having been fixed a human necessity, when the people fail, government with no other alternative lays its hand on a dictator.

We are moving very rapidly in that direction. There is a countercurrent which will win, some persons by looking wise and speaking positively may get credit for wisdom if fortune favors their guess, but it can be no more than a guess now. Nobody can see that far ahead now, but all persons may know with absolute certainty that if we continue shifting governmental responsibility away from the people, we will reduce governmental capacity to the point that in ourselves we no longer afford the government an agency that can do the work. Then the dictator.

HATTON W. SUMNERS.
Chairman House Judiciary Committee, Washington, D. C.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5698

Sanford, Fla. Herald
February 23, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bills

Further evidence of the increasing encroachment of the federal government upon the powers of the individual states is shown by the efforts now being made in Congress to secure the enactment by this session of various "anti-lynching bills." More than forty different measures designed for the alleged purpose of preventing lynchings, or to penalize a county or state in which a lynching has occurred, and bringing the punishment for lynching under the federal government, have already been introduced.

All of these bills differ in some respects from one another but in general they all have in common the main idea of transferring the responsibility for dealing with this problem from the local communities to federal authorities. And in most of them occurs the provision that in the event of a lynching in a given county, that county shall pay a fine of $10,000 (or a slightly larger or smaller sum, depending upon the particular bill) to the federal government.

Of course anything of this nature is strictly unconstitutional. The federal government has no more right to fine a county, than the county has to fine the federal government. Under our Constitution the rights and powers of the state are as important as those of the federal government. The federal government possesses only such powers as are expressly delegated to it by the Constitution; all other powers are reserved to the individual states. The problem of dealing with lynching is strictly a state function.

But whether or not a law is constitutional is no concern of those New Dealers in Congress who have long since relegated the basic law of the land to the ashcan, as far as their particular legislative whims are concerned. Sworn to uphold the Constitution, they not only defy it, but seek to destroy it. And if the Supreme Court is packed with men of similar ilk, their efforts will succeed.

Since this is a very grave possibility, it should be interesting to us to consider how this "anti-lynching bill" will work if it becomes a law. Would it be a good law if it were constitutional? Would it really serve to retard lynching? Would it increase respect for the law or would it promote lawlessness? What would be the economic effect of it and what additional burdens would it likely place on the taxpayers?

In the first place we do not believe it is a good law because it is not fair. It deals only with so-called "lynchings" a problem peculiar to the South. It does not prohibit gangland killings, putting a district attorney on the spot, kidnaping, or any of the crimes commonly identified with our northern cities. If a mob of Southern white men takes a wretched negro out and strings him up, that is a "lynching" under the terms of this law; but if a Chicago gang mows down a row of rival racketeers with machine guns, that's still purely a local problem.

Furthermore, a mob in the process of lynching a man is not likely to consider the additional burdens of the taxpayers as a consequence of its act, or whether it will bring a flock of federal agents down on its necks from Washington. Most lynching mobs are in a frenzy and are not likely to consider any of the more delicate aspects of the situation. They have but one thought in mind and all the laws in the world will not alter their course.

In the last quarter of a century tremendous strides have been taken by the local communities themselves in blotting out this evil, not by drastic legislation, but by the slower and more orderly process of education and social enlightenment. The annual lynching record has been reduced from several hundred a year, to the neighborhood of ten, and the good work is steadily continuing. The time for federal action, if there ever was any, has long since past.

However, a more just federal law than the one proposed must be found. As so many newspapers have pointed out in deploring lynchings, "two wrongs do not make a right." The same will hold true in the case of punishing an entire county for what a few lawless citizens may do.

Members of a mob should not go unpunished any more so than their victims if laws are to be respected. Lynchers destroy more than a person's life; they are tearing at the very foundation of freedom on which the Constitution was built.

In assessing punishment on an entire country, the proposed federal law would also be contrary to the tenets of individual liberty.

Dothan, Ala., Journal
February 19, 1937

PENDING ANTI-LYNCHING LAW IMPRACTICAL

The recent lynching of a Negro in Henry county has focused attention on an anti-lynching law now pending in Congress where it has been blocked for several years by Southern Congressmen and Senators who have vigorously fought its passage.

As the Henry county lynching went on record as the first in the nation this year, the first Southern newspaper to view the proposed law as an adequate check on mob violence openly urged its enactment. Since, it has been joined by other newspapers in the South.

Washington observers see in the support of the Southern newspapers an excellent opportunity for the bill to be passed, pointing out that Northern legislators heretofore only half-heartedly supported the bill as they felt it was putting them in a "holier-than-thou" attitude.

There are two outstanding features of the bill. One provides that the county in which a lynching occurs must pay relatives of the victim $10,000, while the other defines a mob as any group composed of as few as three persons.

For some time various states have had laws against lynchings and mob violence subsequently tended to decrease in recent years, but whether due to these laws is problematical. A federal law apparently is the only solution to the problem.

But a federal law such as the one now pending in Congress will not be a satisfactory one. Punishing an entire county for a crime committed by a handful could hardly be interpreted in any sense as fairness.

Under that provision the guilty and non-guilty alike would be punished and even then such an assessment against the county's treasury would not serve to discourage a lawless mob.

Equally unfair is the bill's definition of three persons as a mob. Any three persons could easily put a fourth out of the way and it would be a lynching with the relatives of the slain one becoming eligible for a $10,000 settlement.

There is nothing that can be said in favor of lynch law and this newspaper never has and never will condone the practice, although in the South the problem is entirely different than in other sections. It is a hang-over of Reconstruction Days and still evading a solution.

State laws have proven inadequate and a federal law probably would be effective in combating the practice of irresponsible groups seizing prisoners and stringing them from a tree without benefit of a trial to positively establish guilt.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
February 23, 1937

FOR FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

From The Richmond Times-Dispatch:

The Times-Dispatch favors the enactment of the Federal anti-lynching bill just introduced in the House of Representatives and shortly to be introduced in the Senate. It sees no hope of ever wiping out lynching, the greatest crime against Southern civilization, except through Federal action.

If every state would enact an anti-lynching law similar to that which Virginia passed a decade ago, lynching could be almost, if not wholly, obliterated. The Virginia law makes lynching an offense against the State as a whole, subjects all participants in lynchings to charges of murder, and authorizes the Governor to have the attorney-general aid in the prosecution and to spend any sum he (the Governor) deems wise in convicting the guilty parties. There has not been a single lynching in the Old Dominion since that law was placed on the statute books.

But it has become plain that few, if any, of the Southern States will follow Virginia's legislative example. Although the Dyer anti-lynching bill of 1922 and the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill of 1935 would almost certainly have passed, but for the filibusters of Southern senators, most Southern States seem to have learned nothing from these episodes. Southern senators on both occasions expressed profound resentment over the possibility that the Federal Government might be permitted to interfere in the affairs of the States, but they do not seem to have done anything to make such intervention unnecessary.

This newspaper's primary objective is to put a stop to the seemingly endless series of mob murders which have disgraced the South and America before the world. That impresses us as far more important than the preservation of something generally referred to as "State sovereignty" or "State's rights." As long as State's rights are appreciated by the States, and the administrative authorities of the States show that they recognize the duties which accompany the exercise of such rights, this newspaper believes in respecting those rights. But when the phrase, "the rights of the States" degenerates into a mere shibboleth behind which the State and local authorities can ignore and flout the law of the land by permitting lynchers to go unpunished year after year, then The Times-Dispatch believes that intervention by the Federal Government is not only desirable but necessary.

The bill just introduced in Congress provides for such intervention. It provides that any responsible peace officer who fails to make adequate efforts to protect a prisoner from a mob, or to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of the mob after a lynching, shall be guilty of a felony, and be fined up to $5,000 or imprisoned up to five years, or both. When the attorney-general of the United States is advised through an affidavit from a citizen that an officer is guilty of either of these offenses, the attorney-general initiates an investigation by Federal G-men to ascertain whether the anti-lynching law has been violated. If the conclusion is in the affirmative, action is instituted in the United States District Court against the peace officer or officers. There is no provision for prosecution of members of the mob.

It also is provided in the bill that a county shall be responsible for a lynching occurring within its boundaries, and that a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 may be levied against the county by the United States District Court, and paid to the heirs of the person lynched. If a county can show that its peace officers exercised due diligence in the protection of the victim of the mob, it is dot subject to this fine.

Such, briefly stated, are the terms of the act. Some constitutional authorities, including Senator Borah, regard the measure as destructive to State's rights, and hence unconstitutional. Others take the opposite view, and hold that the bill does not conflict with the fundamental law.

Professor Karl N. Llewellyn of the Columbia University Law School has studied the measure carefully, and has rendered an opinion that it is clearly constitutional. He says, in part:

"The Federal Government has the power and the implicit duty to assure to its citizens orderly, due, legal and even procedure in criminal cases at the hands of responsible officials. When States or officials or subdivisions of States are derelict in this regard, the Supreme Court, as the spokesman of the Federal Government will interfere to correct. Congress can intervene to prevent the need for correction, and especially to prevent such dereliction as is irremediable. The general scope of the measure has a clear basis in the due process and equal protection clauses."

On this, as on many other constitutional questions, there is room for difference of opinion, of course. Professior Llewellyn may be wrong, and Senator Borah may be right. But we should like to see the bill enacted and carried to the United States Supreme Court for a ruling. If the Supreme Court holds the law invalid, that will be unfortunate. But something must be done to end the present intolerable situation, and the measure just introduced seems the best way out.

We have seen no formal pronouncement of late on this subject from the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, with headquarters in Atlanta. In the spring of 1935, when the Costigan-Wagner bill was under consideration, the commission met, with its chairman, Dr. W. W. Alexander, presiding, and unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the enactment of Federal antilynching legislation. The commission, which is composed of 130 representative Southerners in 13 States, declared without a dissenting voice that "in not one case in 10 is an effective effort made by the (State or local) authorities to identify and prosecute the members of lynching mobs." It went on to say that "even in the rare cases in which such efforts have been made, indictments have seldom been obtained, and convictions have usually proved impossible."

It is clear, then, that lynching will not be wiped out until there is a new spirit abroad in the land, or until State and local authorities bestir themselves far more vigorously than they have done heretofore. We see no likelihood that either will occur in the measurable future.

On of the most convincing demonstrations that this is true was given in the autumn of 1934, when Claude Neal was taken from an Alabama jail and lynched in Florida. At least 15 hours' notice was given in the nation's press and over the radio that Neal was to be lynched, and from 4,000 to 7,000 white people gathered among them many small children. Neal was put to death with the most unspeakable and unprintable tortures. No one was even arrested.

As long as State and local officials are indifferent to these barbarities, they will continue to occur. We see no alternative but to enact a Federal law with teeth in it, and to let the G-men and the Federal courts go into action.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
February 16, 1937

THE TREND IS TOWARDS IT

That Southern resistance to a Federal anti-lynch law is weakening is evident. Since the Richmond Times-Dispatch came out in favor of such a law several other influential Southern newspapers have indicated that they are either in sympathy with such legislation or not prepared to oppose it.

The Citizen reports this development as perhaps symptomatic. We are not impressed with the arguments brought forward in support of such legislation. Our own view is that it may weaken that sense of local responsibility the development of which and exercise of which can alone develop and maintain a sound civilization. But the trend in this as in so many other matters is to rely upon the power of the Federal government.

O'CONNOR FLAYS JIM-CROW IN CAPITOL

Segregation and jim crowism "right in the shadow of the Capitol" were denounced in the House Monday by Chairman John O'Connor of New York, of the House Rules Committee, in opposing the method in which the Gavagan anti-lynching bill was brought to the floor.

"I should like to see the question of the Negroes in America, 13 million of them, seriously considered by the people of this country and by Congress," declared O'Connor, "and I would like to tell you where to start.

"Start in your capital, the District of Columbia. In the capital of the nation the Negro does not get a square deal. Right in the shadow of the Capitol you have segregation and jim crowism. If that were properly brought to the attention of this nation the people of the 48 states would never tolerate it," the representative said.

Civil Rights Bill Pending

Representative H. B. Konnlmann interrupted the speaker long enough to say that he had introduced a bill now before Congress "dealing with the situation in Washington." Kopplemann was referring to his civil rights bill for the District which would give colored persons the right to attend theatres, restaurants and other public places.

O'Connor objected to the Rules Committees being discharged from further considering the bill. The piece of legislation was forced to the floor by 218 members of the House signing the measure. This procedure automatically takes it out of the hands of the Rules Committee, of which he is chairman.

Procedure Opposed

Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, author of the bill, made the motion to have the committee discharged. O'Conor said "we are considering a motion to discharge the Rule Committee from a matter which was never before the Rules Committee."

In objecting to the parliamentary procedure, O'Conor added "As to the merits of the measure, that is another matter. I feel as keenly and as bitterly against lynching as any man in this House. I despise it; I detest it. I think only the lowest form of a coward that ever crawled the face of the earth would indulge in lynching.

"I would like to have seen this bill brought before the House in the proper orderly way so as to give us an opportunity to vote upon it in the regular parliamentary procedure. But I am talking now about the peculiar situation which confronts us.

"I would like nothing better than to devote the rest of my life to seeing that these 15 million, the largest racial group in the United States, get a square deal in this country."

Method Defended

Representative Hamilton Fish of New York, in defending the procedure said, "The only way we can bring the Gavagan anti-lynching bill before us for debate and vote is by the procedure adopted by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Gavagan).

"The American People are discussing the question of lawlessness arising from the illegal seizure of property through sit-down strikes, which we deplore, that human life is more important, and in this instance we are forced to have a federal anti-lynching law, because in certain sections of the country prisoners are taken away from the constituted authorities and are mobbed and lynched, and the rule of the rope and the faggot prevails.

"This bill has to do with the protection of human life, guaranteed by the Constitution.—The Constitution however, specifically states that no person shall be deprived of grace to our civilization—lynch-life, liberty, or property without ing—almost extinct, dis-due process of law and that is the purpose of the Gavagan bill."

Called "Rape of Justice"

Representative Sam Hobbs, of Alabama, called the bill "a rape of justice." "This bill is itself the rope with which this mob would lynch the constitutional guarantees which we have cherished through the years," Hobbs said. "This bill is not an anti-lynching bill. It is pro-lynching bill. It will stimulate

The result of the vote announced and debate is scheduled for Wednesday.

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THE SOUTH TODAY

The New Anti-Lynching Bill

By VIRGINIUS DABNEY

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Editor's Note: Virginius Dabney, famous Southern editor, author and lecturer, and well-known to readers of this column, has after serving two years as chief editorial writer on the Richmond Times Dispatch, recently been made editor of that paper.

Ever since 1922, when the Dyer anti-lynching bill passed the house of representatives by 230 to 119, and was then filibustered to death by a group of Southern senators, led by the late Oscar Underwood, agitation for legislation of this character has been more or less continuous. An anti-lynching bill sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has just been introduced in both branches of congress. What are its provisions and is it likely to pass?

Apparently the likelihood that congress will adopt an anti-lynching bill is greater now than ever before. The N. A. A. C. P. is putting on all the pressure it can command. It claims to have 261 members of the house and 62 members of the senate already committed—a clear majority in each branch. The overwhelming preponderance enjoyed by the Democrats in congress gives the members of the party from the North and West, where anti-lynching legislation is more favorably regarded, an immense numerical superiority over those from the South. In addition, many Republicans have always been inclined to favor a federal curb on lynching. Had it not been for a seven-day filibuster in the senate in the spring of 1935, the Costigan-Wagner bill would almost certainly have been passed.

* * *

Differs From Former Bill

The bill just introduced, it should be noted, differs from the Costigan-Wagner bill in certain respects. It contains the following provisions:

Any officer who fails to make diligent efforts to protect a prisoner with the result that the prisoner is lynched, or who fails to make diligent efforts to apprehend the members of the mob, shall be guilty of a felony, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding $5,000 or a prison term of not more than five years, or both.

Whenever a lynching occurs, and information on oath is submitted to the attorney general of the United States that any officer charged with the duty of protecting the victim has neglected to make diligent efforts to do so, or to apprehend the members of the mob after the lynching, the attorney general "shall cause an investigation to be made to determine whether there has been any violation of this act." If he finds that a violation has occurred, proceedings will be instituted against the officer or officers in the United States District court. There is no provision for federal prosecution of members of the mob.

A governmental subdivision shall be responsible, under the bill, for any lynching occurring within its territorial jurisdiction, and also for any lynching outside that jurisdiction, if the victim was seized within the jurisdiction. Such a subdivision is subject to a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000, unless it can show that proper diligence was used to protect the prisoner.

* * *

May Sue for Damages

Suit for pecuniary damages under the act may be instituted in the United States district court, and shall be brought by the attorney general of the United States, or, if the claimant or claimants elect, by counsel employed by them. The next of kin of the person lynched is paid such damages as are awarded.

What are the principal objections to such a bill? In the first place, many regard it as unconstitutional. Conspicuous among the non-Southerners who are firmly convinced that it is in direct conflict with the organic law is Senator Borah, who has stated many times that it would annihilate the sovereignty of the state.

Another leading objection is that the enactment of the bill might mean a pronounced augmentation of interracial bitterness. The class of whites mainly responsible for lynching would resent the entry of the federal authorities into the field, and the resentment might find expression in more, instead of fewer, outbreaks of mob violence against the Negroes.

It also is contended that the bill is a reflection on the South and that it would interfere with the South's "protection of its womanhood." Senator Smith of South Carolina, in discussing the Costigan-Wagner bill in 1935, spoke of the "very humiliating necessity of going outside the laws at times to vindicate the sanctity of our fireside and the virtue of our women."

* * *

No Federal Action Taken

Some argue, too, that it is not likely the federal courts would be appreciably more effective in securing convictions than the state courts have been. Such critics point out that although a federal court could sit a good many miles away from the scene of the lynching sentiment among the whites there might not be greatly different from that which prevailed in the immediate vicinity of the crime. Opponents of the proposed legislation also cite the indisputable fact that although the horrible and ghastly lynching of Claude Neal in 1934 was an interstate crime, in that Neal was taken from an Alabama jail and lynched in Florida, the federal government took no action.

So much for the arguments against the bill. Whereas there are competent lawyers who question its constitutionality, others regard it as constitutional. Among those may be mentioned Charles H. Tuttle, who filed a brief on behalf of the Costigan-Wagner measure when it was up for passage in 1935, and Prof. Karl N. Llewellyn of the Columbia University law school. Mr. Tuttle contends that "nothing in our national constitution prevents our national government from undertaking such an act of self-preservation, and from protecting itself against the consequences of the break-down of due process of law through state inaction and of wholesale discrimination in the effective protection of mob rule." He cites the section of the constitution which says that the United States shall guarantee to every state "a republican form of government," as well as the Fourteenth amendment, which provides that no state shall deprive any person of "life, liberty or property without due process of law." He likewise directs attention to the section of the same amendment which endows congress with the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

* * *

Few Results Obtained

It is also argued on behalf of the bill that the states have had decades in which to put a stop to lynchings with few clearly discernible results. The reduction effected since 1920 is substantial, but for the past ten years the number of mob murders committed annually has remained approximately the same. It seems obvious that as long as the present method of handling lynchers—or of not handling them—is unchanged, lynchings will continue. Lynchers have been punished for only three of the 84 lynchings which took place from 1931 to 1935, inclusive, and the penalties in those three cases were light.

We have had such fiendish performances as the burning alive of Henry Lowry at Nodena, Ark., in 1921, and the savage and unprintable tortures of Claude Neal, who was put to death near Greenwood, Fla., in 1934, both lynchings having been announced in advance by the newspapers. Word of the real lynching was broadcast by radio and in the press 14 to 15 hours before it occurred, and a crowd of from 4,000 to 7,000 white persons from several states, including many children, gathered to witness the Negro's prolonged agony. No one was punished.

Advocates of a federal anti-lynching bill see in such a measure the only hope of putting a stop to such barbarities. To the argument that lynchings are necessary to protect Southern womanhood, they retort that fewer than one-fourth of the persons lynched since 1890 have even been accused of assaults upon white women.

* * *

Many Women Favor Bill

As a matter of fact, various groups of prominent Southern women have declared emphatically that they do not regard lynching as a defense of womanhood, but rather as a blot on Southern civilization. These include the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and the Woman's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Methodist body endorsed the Costigan-Wagner bill at its annual session in 1934, but the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching opposed the measure. The commission of Interracial Co-operation, headed by Dr. W. W. Alexander, with headquarters in Atlanta, was skeptical for years concerning the value of federal intervention in lynchings, but in 1935 it voted unanimously in favor of a federal anti-lynching law. The Costigan-Wagner bill was indorsed by execuutive bodies of the Young Women's Association, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Federal Council of Churches, the Protestant Episcopal, Congregational and the American Federation of Labor, as well as by other organizations.

It seems probable, in view of this widespread support, that the anti-lynching bill just introduced will pass. If so, its passage will be due primarily to the failure of most Southern states to stamp out the hideous crime which has disgraced them before the world.

VIRGINIUS DABNEY

Selma, Ala. Times
February 14, 1937

A FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LAW

The usually wise Representative Hatton Sumners, of Texas, has argued against a Federal anti-lynching law less convincingly than an Alabama mob has just argued for one.

Representative Sumners says that lynchings have declined under State enforcements from 3.4 victims per million persons in 1892 to about .07 per million in 1936. But last week fifty men broke into an Alabama jail, hanged and riddled with bullets an 18-year-old negro and escaped without arrest. It was the first lynching of 1937, that's true, and first in Alabama for five years. But last year there were nine lynchings, and in the last fifty years there were 5,000. How much the threat of a Federal law agitating Congress for the last four years has had to do with the decrease no one can tell, but doubtless it has been an important factor. What would happen if that threat were removed by shelving the pending Wagner-Van Nuys bill?—New York World-Telegram.

Burlington, N. C. Times
February 13, 1937

SHOULD BE "MUST" BILL

ALTHOUGH THE VIRTUOUS head of State's rights will undoubtedly be reared by ardent Southern statesmen to quell it, still we believe that—just for the good of Dixie's soul if for no other reason—a new anti-lynching measure should be introduced in Congress.

It's hardly possible that such a measure would pass, of course, for the law-making flower of the South will play the tune of State's rights even to a crescendo of filibustering if necessary to defeat such an "insult to the South". And then the good old principle of State's rights, having served its perennial purpose as the best of political alibis for avoiding that which hints of liberalism, will again be interred until another child labor bill or anti-lynching measure or something similar is proposed and the old shibboleth has to be refurbished.

Lynchings seem to be on the decline in the South, to judge from statistics, and those who say that such a trend is a good thing are right. A decline in

ynching is a good thing. But it isn't good enough. There must be a total cessation of lynching. And the only way to do it is by a Federal statute, phrased as either was the Costigan-Wagner bill which was repulsed last session, or phrased adequately to punish and punish heavily any county in which a lynching occurs.

The anti-lynching measure proposed by Senators Costigan and Wagner fined any county in which a lynching occurred $10,000—the money going to the family of the victim. It also proposed harsh strictures against law enforcement officers who give evidence of not having attempted to prevent a lynching to the best of their ability. But the bill didn't pass. Why? Ask those Southern gentlemen who orated passionately against it in the name of State's rights.

And what States, following the defeat of the measure because it interferred with State's rights, then turned around and enacted separate anti-lynching measures? Ask those same Southern gentlemen. You won't get an answer.

Examples of members of a lynching mob being punished for the criminals that they are, and of officers of the law who failed to prevent a lynching being deprived of their office and punished for the inexcusably lax officials that they are, are so rare as to be phenomenal.

Lynchings are not confined to the South. By no means. But the sad fact is—they predominate in the South. And it is from the South that a concerted drive to wipe out this bestial stigma and disgrace must originate, if not by individual State action, then by emphatic demand for a Federa anti-lynching measure.

Albany, Ga., Herald
February 12, 1937

This Is My Personal Column

By H. T. M.

ANTI-LYNCHING. For years South... BACK ... Senators ... and Representatives have bitterly resisted all attempts to enact an anti-lynching bill. They have resisted with argument and with parliamentary strategy. They have declared of those seeking to enact anti-lynching measures (and there have been many such moves): "They shall not pass!"

Now there is more likelihood of the enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law than there has been in years. An influential Southern newspaper has done the unheard-of thing of advocating such a law.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch, published for many years in the city that was the last capital of the Southern Confederacy, and in a state where Southern traditions are most strongly entrenched, recently printed a two-column editorial demanding of Congress that it pass a law to curb lynching. The editorial appeared on the very day that a mob took a Negro prisoner from a jail in Southeastern Alabama, strung him to a tree and riddled his body with bullets. The Negro deserved to die, but the white people of the county in which his crime was committed owed to him and to their state that he be given an orderly trial and punished as the law intends.

DEMANDED BY SOUTHERN PAPER

The argument the Richmond paper uses in support of its demand is that the Southern states refuse to deal adequately with the lynching evil, therefore the Federal government should take cognizance of a state of affairs which menaces law and order more seriously the longer it is ignored. Virginia enacted a drastic anti-lynching law ten years ago, and its effectiveness is proved by the fact that not a single lynching has since occurred in that state.

The bill now in Congress may not pass. The chances are against its early passage, but the fact that one of the South's leading newspapers takes a bold stand for something against which a united South has stood for many years is deeply significant. Other Southern papers will follow the Times-Dispatch's example, and states which have made no serious attempt to deal with the problem through their own courts will do well to do some solemn thinking—and be solemnly warned.

The New York Herald-Tribune is impressed with the significance of the Richmond paper's stand, which it sees as perhaps "the beginning of the end" of lynching as a crime. In the course of a thoughtful editorial, The Tribune-Herald says:

"There has been small hope of a Federal bill so long as it has seemed to represent a holier-than-thou attempt by a moralistic North to coerce the South into a solution of a Southern problem. But when the South itself begins to look at a Federal act as no more than a convenient mechanism to assist it in meeting the problem of its own accord the whole position changes. The Northern states had no hesitation in inviting the Federal government under the kidnaping law, to assist them in combatting that horrible crime. The editorial in The Richmond Times-Dispatch means that lynching is falling from its status as a sectional issue to that of an equally horrible crime, appropriate to similar treatment. And that, in turn, means the beginning of the end of lynching."

There should be no "alibying" by the South's spokesmen, in Congress or elsewhere. We want no Federal anti-lynching bill, but we have cordially invited it for fifty years.

In the eight years since Virginia passed its anti-lynching law, under spur of editorials for which Editor Louis I. Jaffe, of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, won deservedly Pulitzer prize, there has not been a single lynching in Virginia. That is something other Southern legislatures now in session to consider a demand for a federal law become more and more widespread. Lynching is something which the south can and should defeat with its own force, law and intelligence.

Sebring, Fla. Highland American
February 13, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING

The inflow of anti-lynching bills has swelled to 28, most of them identical. Representative Sacks of Pennsylvania noted that he introduced one "by request." His office informed us that it was at the request of the Association for Advancement of Colored People. Presumably each one introducing such a bill would be pledged to it.

The government printer estimates printing bills cost $4.75 a page. Each lynching bill has 8 pages total $38, or $1,064 for the 28 introduced.

In form these bills parallel the one filibustered to death two years ago by southern senators. Police officials in an area where a lynching occurs would be subject to prosecution in a federal court a $5,000 fine and five years' imprisonment. The victim or his survivors also could sue in federal court for $2,000 to $10,000 damages from the defaulting officials. The attorney general would be required to prosecute both the criminal action and the suit for damages unless the victim chose other counsel for the latter. No pre-payment of court costs would be required of the claimants, thus making it possible for impoverished negroes to get action.

Our ...ored Congressman

Representative Arthur W. Mitchell considers himself persecuted by his race—so he said in a recent speech. Perhaps by this time he has learned that his race considers him the persecutor.

Few, if any, newspapers or public utterances supported him in his fight to side-track the Gavagan anti-lynching bill for his own, a weaker one.

While the Congressman from Illinois decries his suffering at the hands of his own people and indulges in a martyr complex, he seems to be unmindful of the fact—or at least he does not admit it—that his people support him when they believe his actions are in keeping with the best interests of their racial group.

For instance, they supported the Representative when he named a young Negro, James L. Johnson, Jr., to the Naval Academy.

But in this case the Congressman seems to have lost his original intention and let the race down. For a while he had raised the Negro's hope and led him to believe that he would stage a fight-to-the-finish in the case of Johnson's dismissal.

Whether the young man was railroaded from the Navy school could have been proved only by the thorough investigation promised by the Congressman, who boasted of having a briefcase filled with evidence to present to the White House.

What happened to this evidence, only Mr. Mitchell knows. It seems that such evidence should have been made public, so that the public would know the facts involved in the case.

Mr. Mitchell went to the White House with the papers containing the evidence and after his trip there no more was heard of the matter. What happened? The last statement heard from him was that the Secretary of the Navy had upheld the actions of the Academy and he, therefore, washed his hands of the matter.

Persecution is often a delusion of those who feel that they have fallen short of what was expected of them.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5700

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 22, 1937

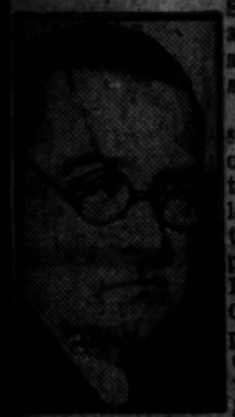
The Battle Over The Federal Anti-Lynching Bill

* * * * * * * * *

Dutcher Says Struggle May Center On Variance Of Two Measures Proposed

BY RODNEY DUTCHER

WASHINGTON. — Chances for a federal anti-lynching act are good unless the anticipated filibuster of a few southern senators is supported by obstruction from the Senate leadership and apathy among the measure's friends.



DUTCHER

Assuming passage, there will be one deficiency in the law if it follows the model of the Gavagan bill passed by the House. For the Gavagan bill applies its penalties only in cases where a prisoner has been taken into custody before being seized by a mob.

It carries an obvious incentive for local officers, discovering the possibility of mob action and fearing federal prosecution, to refrain from arresting suspects and then leave them to the mob.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill, now with the Senate Judiciary Committee, extends to cover all cases of persons accused, suspected or convicted of crime, who are lynched or injured by mobs in denial of trial by the regular process of law.

The Gavagan bill, on the other hand, provides — as the Senate bill does not — for federal prosecution of members of lynching mobs in cases where local or state authorities have not acted within 30 days.

Supporters of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill think they can bring enough pressure on the majority leaders, Senators Joe Robinson of Arkansas, and Pat Harrison of Mississippi, to give the measure a place on the calendar sooner or later. They will then be faced by a filibuster which will be led by "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina. Smith, Tom Connally of Texas, and Josiah Bailey of North Carolina headed the filibuster which two years ago was used to sidetrack the Costigan anti-lynching bill. Smith is known as repeating that such legislation is a crime against southern womanhood. His vehemence is counted as an asset by supporters of the bill.

* * *

Want Colored Vote

In the background will be the desire of northern Democratic leaders to hold the colored vote, which deserted the Republican party almost en masse in the last election. Most opposition speeches in the House were based on the Gavagan bill's alleged unconstitutionality, violation of state rights and interference with a purely southern problem.

Aside from the difference previously noted, the House and Senate bills provide that officers who fail to make diligent efforts to prevent prisoners from being lynched shall be subject to a $5000 fine and five years in prison; that officers who conspire with mobs may be imprisoned from five to 20 years; and that any county in which a prisoner is injured or killed by a mob may be sued by the victim's family for from $2000 to $10,000.

A who's who of the House leadership can be found in the list of those who voted against the Gavagan bill, which passed by 277 to 119. Among those voting nay were Speaker Bankhead, Majority Leader Sam Rayburn, Chairman Bob Doughton of the Ways and Means Committee, Chairman Marvin Jones of the House Agriculture Committee, Chairman Sam McReynolds of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman Hatton Sumners of the Judiciary Committee and other southern leaders.

* * *

Say Sentiment Increased

Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People say 64 senators have promised to vote for the Wagner-Van Nuys measure, and that sentiment for an anti-lynching law has vastly increased, especially in the south and among southern women's organizations.

Among congressmen voting against the Gavagan bill were the three wealthy land owners who, as members of the House Agriculture Committee, were instrumental in burying the administration program to aid tenant farmers and sharecroppers—Kleberg of Texas, Coffee of Nebraska, and Fulmer of South Carolina.

This coincidence is noteworthy because the N. A. A. C. P. recently showed that eight of the lynching victims of 1935 and 1936 had been accused solely of union activity in the organization of sharecroppers and tenants. Others were lynched for fighting with white men, drunkenness or disrespect.

FT DODGE IOWA MESSENGER
THURSDAY APRIL 15 1937

A LAW TO STOP LYNCHING

Congress again is considering legislation which would aim to put a stop to lynching. Anti-lynching proposals are nothing new for congressmen. They have seen them introduced in one form or another every year since the World war. But the senate—because of its rules encouraging filibusters—seems to be the stumbling block for successful passage of anti-lynching legislation. Advocates of such measures believe that the bills could be passed if only a vote could be obtained in the upper house. The greatest opposition comes from senators from the south. They fight to the bitter end and use any weapon available.

Southern opponents of anti-lynching proposals gain recruits from the followers of Senator Borah—Idaho's number one congressman stoutly insisting that such measures would be unconstitutional. Supporters of the laws, on the other hand, insist that if a political unit fails to protect a person against mob violence or properly to prosecute his assailants, that person has been denied due process of law and the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the constitution.

Still others who feel that such legislation may be held constitutional fear that it would be ineffective. They point out that lynchings go unpunished in states with anti-lynching laws, and that if state court jurors will not vote to punish the lynchers, probably federal court jurors in the same community would have the same experience. Records indicate, however, that recently state laws have been better enforced.

Tuskegee Institute reports 9 lynchings in 1936 as against 20 in 1935, 15 in 1934 and 28 in 1933. Since 1882 an average of about 85 persons were lynched each year, but before 1900 the number ran about 100 annually whereas since the World war the average per year has fallen under 25, thus showing a general tendency toward law enforcement.

The anti-lynching bills introduced in congress are almost identical. They penalize officials who neglect their duty of protecting an individual in their custody, or of prosecuting persons who injure him.

Counties in which mob violence occurs are to be fined. Federal courts shall try, under the laws of the state, any member of a lynching mob, if jurors available for local courts are manifestly opposed to punishing persons guilty of mob violence.

Admittedly the atrocities of lynching are horrible enough to arouse the emotions of the whole nation, but extravagant sentimentalizing will not relieve the United States of this blight on its system of justice. The solution to the problem lies in the hands of those persons who are in a position to intelligently examine the practice and to pass legislation in accordance with their discoveries. This power rests in congress.

Rome, Ga News-Tribune
April 14, 1937

TARVER BLASTS ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IN HOUSE

Seventh District Congressman Claims Gavagan Measure "Unconstitutional"

BILL "RABID PROPOSAL," HE SAYS IN STATEMENT

Fight For Enactment Intensified By Double Lynching In State Of Mississippi

WASHINGTON, April 14.—(INS) Supporters of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill today predicted that the Mississippi lynchings would "intensify" desire to pass the measure, but opposition forces said "it was beside the issue."

Rep Mitchell (D) of Illinois, only negro member of Congress, declared:

"The House is going to pass the bill anyway, but the Mississippi outrage will undoubtedly intensify interest, and to provide a direct appeal to the Senate to approve the bill.

Rep. Tarver (D) of Georgia, an opponent of the measure, asserted:

"While I very deeply regret the occurrence in Mississippi, as undoubtedly the whole nation does, it has no bearing on the fundamental question before the House in connection with this bill. The issue at stake is whether state authority or federal government is to control or punish this crime.

"As to the effect it will have on the House membership I don't think there will be any one way or the other."

Tarver warned the South to "pause to consider" what the attitude of new justices appointed by the President under his Supreme court plan would be on the constitutionality of the measure.

"If the President favors this bill, as is currently reported, will the men he appoints to the court be in favor of it also and vote to uphold its constitutionality," Tarver asked the House.

Claims Measure Illegal

"If that legislation passes, what character of men, with what views upon the race problem may be appointed to the court?"

"Let those who support too readily the idea of greatly increasing the Supreme court pause to consider, especially the people of the South."

Tarver charged "there can be no reasonable doubt" that the Gavagan measure is unconstitutional.

Declaring the Supreme court "has been our protection against rabid proposals" affecting the race problem, Tarver discussing possible ap-

was "regrettable."

Athens, Ga. Times
April 16, 1937

TORRID DEBATE FIRES SOLONS OF DIXIE STATES

Scores of Negroes Sit In Gallery During Hot Session

WASHINGTON, April 15—(UP)—In one of the most fiery sessions in years the house tonight beat down stubborn opposition and passed the drastic anti-lynching bill, the first such measure to obtain approval in 15 years. All attempts to emasculate it with amendments were defeated.

The bill expected to encounter a rockier road in the senate where southern democrats are prepared to oppose it as an invasion of state rights. Also Senator Borah served notice in sharply worded statement today that he is aginst it.

"At a time when the people in the states are having the greatest success in dealing with the lynching problem, Borah said, "this measure is put forth to place stigma of condemnation upon their efforts and brand the people in the states as will fully neglecting their duty."

Rep. Hamilton Fish, R., N. Y., angered southern democrats opposing the measure when he demanded that they swing over to support the bill and "end these blood-thirsty mobs."

Southerners retorted that the bill would violate states rights, would destroy county governments, and would be unconstitutional.

Scores of negroes were in the galleries as the debate progressed.

Fish shouted that the mob which lanched the two negroes in Duck Hill "probably will never be brought to trial" and contended that the recent incident "ought to make southern democrats support this bill."

Rep. Zebulon Weaver, D., N. C., member of the house judiciary committee demanded [illegible]

[illegible] victims, Roosevelt Townes and [illegible] McDaniel, were taken [illegible] officers as they were being ca[illegible] from the courthouse where they had been arraigned on charges of murdering the white man.

The terrified negroes were taken to Duck Hill, scene of the Windham slaying, tied to trees and tortured with the searing flame of a blow torch across their naked chests. Townes died of the flames and after McDaniel had undergone indescribable torture, he was shot through the head.

The mob, by this time, had grown to some 500, including women and small children, who looked on the gruesome scene.

The negroes were snatched from the jurisdiction of the circuit court, now in session here. They had entered pleas of not guilty to the murder charges before Judge John Allen.

No Indication of Violence

A spokesman for Judge Allen said: "Judge Allen wants this impressed—that there had been no indication up to that time that violence was impending. There were very few in the courtroom."

Sheriff E. H. Wright termed it an "orderly mob." There were about 40 men in the mob when the negroes were seized from the officers, but approximately 500 were present when the negroes were lynched—12 miles north of Winona.

Sheriff Wright said:

"It was most unexpected, but it was an orderly mob. As I was bringing the two prisoners out of the courthouse about a half-dozen men grabbed me and pushed me back against the wall. Two deputies standing near me tried to prevent mob violence, but they were also grabbed. I pleaded with the mob to let the law take its course but to no avail. I shall use every means possible to bring those responsible for the mob before the bar of justice."

Victim's Kin Looks On

District Attorney Clarence Morgan revealed that he was talking to Windham's father-in-law at the time the negroes were lynched. He said when he looked out the window, after hearing noises, he saw the mob taking the negroes away in automobiles.

The mob drove to a spot about a mile from the store in which Windham was slain. After the negroes had been tied to trees, a blow torch was applied to their chests and they were told to confess the crime. Townes confessed he shot Windham and McDaniel said he robbed the store afterward.

[illegible] of the negroes implicated a [illegible] by the name of "Shorty." He [illegible] by the mob and escaped.

[illegible] told of drastic steps taken in North Carolina to punish lynchers.

"There is no good negro in the south today who does not have the love and protection of the white man," Weaver said. "We have real men in the south like our sheriffs who are ready to lay down their lives to defend the law."

Chairman Hatton W. Sumners of the house judiciary committee, an opponent of the bill said he "got pretty mad" about the Mississippi lynchings "and was almost ready to join the mob ready to lynch the constitution."

He then asserted that public opinion in the states had steadily decreased the number of lynchings.

"If you want to see the lynchings stopped," shouted Sumners, "let the states do their part for they have rapidly reduced lynchings."

"We of the south have a bad and dangerous situation but we say to you "for God's sake stay out because we know more about it than you do," he pleaded.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
April 15, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING VOTE LOOMING

Proponents Predict Approval for Gavagan Measure in Showdown Fight

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, April 15.—House sponsors predicted "two to one" approval today for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill in a showdown expected to follow sectional lines. The measure would impose heavy fines and prison terms on peace officers from whose custody a prisoner is taken and lynched.

Chairman Sumners (D), Texas, of the judiciary committee, leader of southern opposition to the bill, would make no predictions on the outcome. He said his group would make every effort to defeat it as an unnecessary invasion of states rights. Republicans decided at a recent conference to support the bill which also would punish mob members and make the county pay damages to the victim's family.

Harlan Hearing Renewed

The senate civil liberties committee pored over the income tax reports of some Harlan county, Ky., officials in connection with reports of "anti-union terrorism." High Sheriff Theodore Middletown, described in testimony of Lawrence Dwyer, a union organizer, as "the worst article we ever had in Harlan county," was called to the stand.

Chairman Connery (D), Massachusetts, of the house labor committee, predicting early passage of new wage and hour laws in congress, said he still believed the 30-hour week the best solution of unemployment.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
April 16, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL IN SENATE

Filibuster Action Looms on House-Approved Gavagan Measure

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Congressional leaders predicted today the first anti-lynching bill to pass the house in 15 years would encounter greater opposition in the senate. Filibusters have killed every previous attempt to win senate approval of such legislation.

Even as the house adopted the Gavagan bill late yesterday 277 to 119, Senator Borah (R), Idaho, criticized what he called an effort to "force through congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

Sectional Clash Looms

Southern senators were preparing to oppose the measure, forecasting warm sectional debate, similar to that which punctuated argument in the house. Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said that although the legislation would not stop lynching, "it will check lynching and encourage respect for the law."

The Gavagan bill provides that an officer who permits a prisoner in his custody to escape, or to be injured or put to death by a mob would be subject to a maximum fine of $5,000 and a maximum prison term of from 5 to 25 years. Participants in mob violence would be subject to similar prison terms, and the county in which a prisoner is seized or put to death would have to pay his family damages ranging from $2,000 to $5,000.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
April 15, 1937

NO SPECIAL LAW NEEDED

Because of the lynching of two alleged murderers by a Mississippi mob just at the time when Congress is considering its second anti-lynching bill of the sessic is no reason for opponents of the measure to feel that their position is shaken. In recent years the crime of lynching has almost disappeared from sections where it was formerly common, because of the prevalence of more enlightened views. There were only eight lynchings in the entire country last year, whereas fifty years ago the number of persons suffering death in this outrageous manner averaged annually about one in every 300,000 of the population. The record speaks for itself. It is a clear demonstration of the fact that the situation is a long way from demanding special federal legislation, especially at this time, unless the gratification of northern politicians seeking the support of minority groups is given consideration.

The first proposed federal anti-lynching law submitted to the present Congress was killed little more than a week ago. Its defeat was without significance in the country at large mainly for the reason that if it had been passed it would hardly have achieved its objective. And there is nothing to indicate that its successor, if adopted, will serve a more useful purpose.

The States already have anti-lynching laws of their own. Compared with the steady improvement in public sentiment their influence has been negligible in reducing lynching almost to the vanishing point. If the States are unable or unwilling to enforce their own laws against lynching, it is hardly likely that they will enforce those of the federal government. The federal prosecuting officers will have to depend for their verdicts upon the courts and juries in the same States where the crimes occur.

For example, if the Gavagan bill, which the House of Representatives at Washington is considering, were now in force, three Mississippi peace officers, a sheriff and two deputies would be answerable in federal court for "failure or neglect" properly to protect their prisoners or apprehend members of the lynching mob, and the county wherein the lynching occurred would be liable to a fine of from [illegible] to $10,000. From all appear-

[illegible] there is little chance of passage in the senate.

Washington, April 7.—The South Carolina delegation voted solidly to-day against taking up the Mitchell anti-lynching bill which was defeated on roll call.

The House next Monday will vote on taking up the Gavagan anti-lynching bill under a discharge rule. This is expected to pass but

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser
April 14, 1937

S/C. Group Against Anti-Lynching Bill

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5701

Greensboro, N. C., News
April 8, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill Beaten By Majority Vote In House

Measure Supported By Chicago Negro Representative Side-Tracked, Presumably For More Drastic Measure Proposed By New York Member.

Daily News Bureau and Telegraph Office
823 Albee Building (By Leased Wire)

Washington, April 7.—The house this afternoon declined by a decisive majority to consider the Mitchell anti-lynching bill, a maneuver which some of the members themselves did not fully comprehend, judging from the conflicting explanations given of their conduct.

The anti-lynching bills are loaded, politically, for many of the members, and for this reason marked interest was manifested in the proceedings. For a time there was a threat of a filibuster as roll calls were demanded.

The bill which the house refused to take up today was that sponsored by Representative Mitchell, the negro Democratic member from Chicago. It contained provisions for imposing fines and prison sentences on officers who permit mobs to take away prisoners, and counties would be liable for damages for the benefit of relatives of persons lynched.

But at that, the Mitchell bill was less drastic than the one introduced by Representative Gavagan, Democrat, who represents the Harlem, or negro district of New York city. The latter bill, while more severe in its terms, will, it was explained, be passed by the house the first of the week.

Makes Little Sense.

This seemed to make almost no sense at all. Some described it as a three-way fight. One group objected to the enactment o. any legislation at all of this character, another group favored the Gavagan bill, and still another group the Mitchell bill. The idea was, said the strategists, to pass the more drastic bill on the theory that southern members of the senate would have less trouble in heading it off. Other members declined to follow the lead of the Chicago negro, although he is a Democrat in good and regular standing.

Mitchell gave his own version of what the house had done when he said the Republicans and the New York delegation had made common cause against him, the Republicans because they were trying to recapture the negro vote that in many of the pivotal states was thrown to the new deal last November, while the Democrats in the Empire state wanted passed the bill that had been introduced by one of their own number. Moreover, said Mitchell, he had declined to be influenced by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an organization which then got behind the more drastic proposal of the member from the Harlem district.

House Approval Expected.

It is quite generally assumed that the Gavagan bill will receive house approval next week, but the element of doubt is not altogether lacking. Some think as the bill of the New Yorker will not have much chance in the senate, the same factors, the more severe punitive terms of the measure, may make it possible to command a majority against it in the house. The administration would probably suffer some embarrassment, should matters so eventuate. The negroes are expecting anti-lynching legislation from the new deal, and they are expecting this just as much as John L. Lewis is expecting support for his labor policies.

Most of the members from the southeastern states are found in opposition to the anti-lynching bills, first on the ground that such legislation would be unconstitutional, an interference with the authority of the states, and because they feel that the crime of lynching is not nearly so serious as in times past. Major Bulwinkle said today legislation of this character would be clearly unconstitutional, and that a crime might be committed in one county, a lynching occur in another county, and the latter county could be held responsible, with damages to pay.

Clark Says Bills Invalid.

Representative Bayard Clark commented that the pending bills were rottenly unconstitutional. If such a law should one day be declared invalid by the Supreme court, even the President would be impelled to approve, said Mr. Clark.

Representative Lindsay Warren thinks Senator Borah has said the last, and the best word on the subject. The elder statesman from Idaho has always doubted the constitutionality of anti-lynching legislation, and his saying so cost him much support at Cleveland, when he sought the Republican presidential nomination.

Representative Hancock today voted with the minority that favored immediate consideration of the Mitchell bill, a bill which as before stated, is considered less objectionable than that offered by Representative Gavagan, and which many expect the house to accept next week. Mr. Hancock would have been perfectly willing, as contemplated in the Mitchell bill, to make lynching a federal offense, as is kidnaping. In reality, Mr. Hancock saw in the Mitchell bill ample protection for honest and conscientious law officers, who protect their prisoners so far as humanly possible. He thinks if a county elects a sheriff who fails in the performance of a manifest duty, allowing a man to be killed or injured, such county should be held liable and thus compelled to make restitution.

Must Maintain Law, Order.

Besides, said Mr. Hancock, there was never a time in the world's history when it was more important to maintain law and order. He may find it impossible, however, to support the Gavagan bill unless amended in some particulars.

Representative Fish, of New York, said tonight:

"The house refused to consider the Mitchell bill because it does not represent the views and wishes of the colored people of America. It is considered an emasculated anti-lynching bill, and a mere political gesture and camouflage. I communicated today with the editors of the six largest colored newspapers of the country and they were unanimously in favor of the Gavagan bill.

"Even the Chicago Defender, in the home city of Representative Mitchell, urged passage of the Gavagan bill. Editor Robert [illegible] Vann, of the Pittsburgh Courier with a circulation of 175,000, wrote me today that 'intelligent negroes everywhere very much prefer Gavagan bill.'"

Griffin, Ga. News
April 13, 1937

Georgia's House Members Line Up Against Anti-Lynching Measures

WASHINGTON, April 12.—(AP)—Georgia's house members apparently have lined up solidly against anti-lynching bills in the house.

They joined a two-to-one house majority Wednesday in beating down a motion to consider a lynching measure offered by Arthur Mitchell, negro representative from Illinois.

They were just as determined to defeat another anti-lynching bill by Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, New York democrat. Some Georgians said the Gavagan bill was even more objectionable than the Mitchell plan.

At least two of the Georgia delegation, Representatives Malcolm C. Tarver and Paul Brown, are expected to make speeches on the Gavagan measure when it comes up for debate Monday.

Some of the delegation, predicted enactment of the bill, explaining Wednesday's vote on the Mitchell proposal was not a fair test of the house sentiment. Many of the Gavagan supporters, they said, were anxious to vote down the Mitchell bill.

Public Reaction Grows

Georgians, like most other southern representatives, contended the lynching problem was taking care of itself through a growing public reaction against mob action. They said the federal government will obstruct the south's own campaign against lynching if it interferes.

Is Southerner

Mitchell himself is a southerner and a democrat. Like his negro predecessor, Oscar de Priest, he came from Alabama.

Georgians in the capital looked to Senator Russell this week for decision on whether Atlanta is to get a new federal judge.

A bill by Representative Robert Ramspeck of the Georgia Fifth district passed the house last Monday and went to the senate.

Last year, in the same stage of the bill's consideration, Russell blocked its enactment, insisting the state needed a new district, not just a new judgeship.

The senator was silent on his plan, explaining it would be some time before the judiciary committee could consider any legislation except the President's court reorganization plan.

HOUSE ACTS TODAY ON LYNCHING BILL

Chairman Sumners Plans Constitutional Fight Against Measure.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—(AP) The house, divided along sectional lines, prepared for a vote tomorrow on the drastic Gavagan anti-lynching bill providing for federal intervention in mob crimes against persons.

Representative Gavagan, Democrat, New York, representing a district in New York city where many negroes reside, predicted tonight the house would pass his measure by a "two-to-one" vote.

Southern Democrats lined up behind Chairman Sumners, Democrat, Texas, of the judiciary committee for a "last-ditch" fight against the bill on the ground it was an unconstitutional invasion of states' rights.

Proponents said they would direct attention in debate to the lynching of two negroes in Mississippi yesterday. They contend it showed the need for federal anti-lynching legislation.

Sumners, while deploring the crime, denied it called for federal intervention.

We Did Our Part, as Usual

April 21, 1937

Anti-Lynching Law Battle

By RODNEY DUTCHER

WASHINGTON, Apr. 21.—Chances for a federal anti-lynching act are good unless the anticipated filibuster of a few Southern Senators is supported by obstruction from the Senate leadership and apathy among the measure's friends.

Assuming passage, there will be one deficiency in the law if it follows the model of the Gavagan bill passed by the House. For the Gavagan bill applies its penalties only in cases where a prisoner has been taken into custody before being seized by a mob.

It carries an obvious incentive for local officers, discovering the possibility of mob action and fearing federal prosecution, to refrain from arresting suspects and then leave them to the mob.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill, now with the Senate judiciary committee, extends to cover all cases of persons accused, suspected or convicted of crime who are lynched or injured by mobs in denial of trial by the regular process of law.

The Gavagan bill, on the other hand, provides—as the Senate bill does not—for federal prosecution of members of lynching mobs in cases where local or state authorities have not acted within 30 days.

Supporters of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill think they can bring enough pressure on the majority leaders, Senators Joe Robinson of Arkansas and Pat Harrison of Mississippi, to give the measure a place on the calendar sooner or later. They will then be faced by a filibuster which will be led by "Cotton Ed" Smith of South Carolina. Smith, Tom Connally of Texas and Josiah Bailey of North Carolina headed the filibuster which two years ago was used to sidetrack the Costigan anti-lynching bill. Smith is given to repeating that such legislation is a crime against Southern womanhood. His vehemence is counted as an asset by supporters of the bill.

In the background will be the desire of Northern Democratic leaders to hold the colored vote, which deserted the Republican party almost en masse in the last election. Most opposition speeches in the House were based on the Gavagan bill's alleged unconstitutionality, violation of state rights and interference with a purely Southern problem.

(Aside from the difference pre-[illegible] House and Senate [illegible] fail to make diligent efforts to prevent prisoners from being lynched shall be subject to a $5,000 fine and five years in prison; that officers who conspire with mobs may be imprisoned from five to 20 years and that any county in which a prisoner is injured or killed by a mob may be sued by the victim's family for from $2,000 to $10,000.

A who's who of the House leadership can be found in the list of those who voted against the Gavagan bill, which passed by 277 to 119. Among those voting nay were Speaker Bankhead, Majority Leader Sam Rayburn, Chairman Bob Doughton of the ways and means committee, Chairman Marvin Jones of the House agriculture committee, Chairman Sam McReynolds of the foreign affairs committee, Chairman Hatton Sumners of the judiciary committee and other Southern leaders.

Representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People say 64 Senators have promised to vote for the Wagner-Van Nuys measure, and that sentiment for an anti-lynching law has vastly increased, especially in the South and among Southern women's organizations.

Among Congressmen voting against the Gavagan bill were the three wealthy land owners who, as members of the House agriculture committee, were instrumental in burying the administration program to aid tenant farmers and share croppers—Kleberg of Texas, Coffee of Nebraska and Fulmer of South Carolina.

This coincidence is noteworthy because the N. A. A. C. P. recently showed that eight of the lynching victims of 1935 and 1936 had been accused solely of union activity in the organization of sharecroppers and tenants. Others were lynched for fighting with white men, drunkenness or disrespect.

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Johnson City, Tenn., Press
April 13, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill Divides Democrats On Sectional Lines

North Lines Up Against South In Debate Over Penalty For Mobs

WASHINGTON, April 13. (AP)—House Democrats divided today along sectional lines for debate on federal anti-lynching legislation.

Northern Democrats lined up in general behind the bill of Rep. Gavagan, New York Democrat, providing heavy fines and prison sentences for peace officers who allow prisoners to be lynched. Similar punishment would be inflicted on mob members.

GOP Backs Measure

Many southern Democrats opposed such legislation as unnecessary and an unconstitutional invasion of the rights of the states. Their debate leader was Chairman Sumners, Texas Democrat, of the judiciary committee.

House Republicans decided at a conference last week to support the Gavagan measure.

Aside from this, the only topic of conversation among congressmen was the possible effect of the Wagner act decisions on the Roosevelt court bill and on future labor legislation. Speaker Bankhead predicted a presidential message proposing wage and hour standards.

Finances Studied

The senate was in recess, but several members of its finance committee were studying methods of making government income match expenditures without new taxes. Senator Byrnes, South Carolina Democrat, said he was making a survey to determine if states could pay a higher share of relief costs.

Secretary Morgenthau declared there has been no shift in the administration's fiscal or monetary policies. He denied rumors of a change in the price of gold.

The revised Guffey-Vinson coal control bill, providing for federal price fixing, went to the White House after the senate and house agreed to amendments. The original act was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court last year, but the new measure omits labor provisions.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
April 18, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL AGAIN

The Congressional Record is filled these days with speeches for and against the anti-lynching bill which this Congress is likely to enact into law. Opposition is not confined to the South, though the Southern members of the Congress are practically solid against it. Able Senators like Borah from far off Idaho are against it as the final blow to State sovereignty. They do not inject the race question into it. Unfortunately that issue is stressed by both Republican and Democratic politicians in the North and East as a vote-catching scheme. The Administration is believed to be supporting the move though President Roosevelt has not said a word one way or the other.

States, as was said here a few days ago, have not and are not now taking the stern action which they should against lynching. The lone example of Virginia is an exception.

But admitting all this, the proposal is a very dangerous one in its inevitable consequences. The true statesman considers consequences with more attention than the politician. The politician is after votes and regardless.

This quotation from a speech by Congressman Johnson, of Texas, is worth pondering:

Commendable in its purpose to suppress lynching, which no one condones and against which no one is more bitterly opposed than I, yet the means by which it attempts to eradicate this evil is revolting and shockingly illegal and unconstitutional.

Lynching and mob violence is indefensible, but it is no more indefensible than this bill, which is a reckless, arrogant, and illegal attempt upon the part of the Federal Government to usurp the lawmaking and the law-enforcing powers and agencies of the State governments.

The bill does more than destroy State rights; it completely destroys State sovereignty, and makes the States, including all State and county officers, responsible, not to the State governments of which they are a part, and to which they have sworn allegiance, but responsible to the ukase of Federal officers, Federal courts, and Federal bureaucrats.

The despised force bill of reconstruction days was no more a wanton or reckless disregard of the inherent and exclusive rights of the States than this vicious measure.

In addition to placing State and county officers of State governments, from Governor to constable, under supervision and control of Federal laws and Federal courts and subject to prosecution in Federal courts for acts committed, not in their individual, but in their official capacity as State officers; the bill goes still further in penalizing counties, which are subdivisions of State governments created by the States and which cannot be sued, even in State courts, except by grant of the State, and are in this bill made responsible in civil damages recoverable in Federal courts, in suits brought by Federal district attorneys.

Furthermore, individual citizens who are not officers may be prosecuted in Federal courts, upon the whim and caprice of Federal judges, for violation of State laws.

The most impressive argument against the proposed bill and all similar bills would be more serious efforts on the part of the States to do their duty in suppressing lynchings.

It could be done.

It may be that some day many citizens will wish that it had been done.

Lynch Law

Governor Hugh White of Mississippi addressed a farm meeting in his State's capital last week, and in the course of his speech said: "We are justly proud of the fact that Mississippi has not had a lynching in fifteen months." A few minutes later his secretary drew him aside. A mob in the town of Duck Hill had just burned the truth out of the Governor's boast and the life out of two Negroes.

A Sheriff and his deputies, returning from court to jail with two prisoners accused of robbing and killing a country storekeeper, were surrounded by a mob. The prisoners were seized, rushed into near-by woods. There the Negroes were chained to trees, sprayed with the flame from a blow-torch until they admitted their guilt in the storekeeper's death. Then they were put to death.

Soon afterward a third Negro, implicated by the others, was seized. He was lashed, and then ordered out of the region.

News of the lynching was flashed not only to Governor White but also to Washington, where the House was opening heated debate on the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. (Lynchings dropped from 80 in 1919 to 8 in 1932, rose to 20 in 1935, and last year totaled 13.) The measure's proponents cited the Mississippi crime as new proof of the need for action, intensified their

The Gavagan measure, sponsored by [illegible] invasion of States' rights, Senator Borah being a particularly outspoken opponent. Southerners maintain lynchings will disappear only with change in public sentiment, that without such a change any law will accomplish nothing.

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Think for Yourself and Let Others Enjoy the Privilege to Do So.—Voltaire.

LET IT COME—AND QUICKLY

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Of course I may be lynched of stop a few more people from speaking to me when I say, let the anti-lynching law come.

We Southerners may not like the idea and the forces in congress that are trying to pass the bill may not intend it as a benefit to the South, but as I see it, it is a bill that all law-abiding people, all prohibitionists especially, all seekers after lower taxes and all who are interested in the welfare and prosperity of the South, should earnestly work for.

In Georgia particularly, the law will be of the greatest help, for Georgia has a prohibition law that is not enforced in many counties. Georgia has many sheriffs and police that do not try to enforce her prohibition laws, some that encourage violations, some waxing fat along with bootleggers from the illegal traffic.

Since beer was made legal in the state, bootlegging has greatly increased, arrests for drunkenness has doubled in counties not selling beer and increased from four to seven times in counties selling beer. New local prisons have been built and a new state prison—chain gangs are crowded, fighting and shootings numerous, jails and calabooses often full, highway accidents and deaths at high records, and the end is not in sight.

We Southerners agree, almost to a man, that most of the crimes committed in the South are caused by liquor drinking; that most of the crimes for which men are lynched were caused by the evil stimulating influence of liquor, and that most of the lynchings are perpetrated by men with liquor on their breaths. We also agree that there is no humbler, better-natured, industrious and peaceable servant than the sober Negro, nor a worse, more degraded, senseless and unreasonable man than the drunken Negro.

I offer the thought that the officers of the law are responsible for most of the crimes caused by liquor, in that they allow the bootleggers to operate. I offer the thought that the people, the voters, are responsible for the law violations, in as much as they elected the officers, and in some cases, knowing the officers would not enforce prohibition laws. And now, supposing the anti-lynching bill was a law and a county or two stood to pay the penalty, which would mean heavy taxation on the taxpayers. Would the taxpayers, the voters, elect sheriffs at the next election who were not in sympathy with the prohibition laws? Would the town voters elect a mayor or aldermen who would not enforce the law? It's a safe bet that if a few counties in Georgia were facing the penalties for lynchings, these counties and the rest of the counties in Georgia would see that the law was enforced. Knowing the Negro's weakness for liquor, the voters would elect officers with outstanding prohibition records. The taxpayers would be afraid to take chances.

The anti-lynching law will awaken voters to their responsibility as all the literature, eloquence of speakers and tears of good women have not done. Let it become a law, and all laws of the South will be enforced, taxes will be reduced, merchants will be more prosperous, poor folks will have more food and clothing, drunks will become scarce, crimes and courts will be fewer, chain gangs will be less populous—a sure wave of peace and prosperity will come to the South.

Without liquor, the South has nothing to fear by economic supremacy of any section; without liquor, the Southern Negro is the best laborer in the country; without liquor, there is no fear of trouble between the two races in the South; without liquor there will be less poverty, crime, illiteracy and property owners will have a far less tax burden.

Once before the North, it was said in ill will, offered the South economic freedom, which was refused, only to have it forced on it. It is said that the Union offered to pay for the freedom of the slaves, that many Southerners were willing to free the slaves, but that many politicians agitated against freeing them and brought on the war. Some of the best men in the South opposed the war, among them General Robert E. Lee, and only after war became inevitable did they take up arms for the South. No section of country ever went through more calamities, and no section ever prospered more after war. The South lost so much in wealth and in men that its quick recovery causes one to wonder what the South would have been like and how rich it would be today had it avoided war and received the Union's offer of pay for its slaves. History makes a poor comparison of the Old South of slavery, slave song and story with the New South of freedom, industry and glory. Few Southern hearts would replace the South of today with the South of old.

So, whatever the motives of the forces in congress that are trying to force through this law; whatever the Southern politicians say of the evils its operation would inflict on the South, it does seem to offer an opportunity for the South to advance to new welfare, new prosperity and riches and new glories. It may prove to be a blessing—another blessing in disguise. Let it come.

GEO. A. DAWSON.

Dawson, Ga.

A New South May Be Born

It was a history making moment in the U. S. Senate Tuesday when Senator Bennett C. Clark of Missouri, presiding temporarily, recognized a member to make the motion which brings the anti-lynching bill up for discussion and a vote.

Lynching is less a menace to Negroes than to whites, yet the law to curb it has long been sought by the former because they are singled out as its victims. Actually fewer Negroes are lynched than traffic accidents kill in many cities. But substituting the mob for law breeds contempt generally, a handicap which Negroes feel in every relation.

The anti-lynching bill now under consideration will go far toward giving Negroes equal rights before the law. Therefore it is epochal that they are able to get it considered at a time when it was possible to have put it aside for legislation asked by President Roosevelt. Though it get no further, that in itself is a gain.

Negroes helped elect many of the members who will vote on this bill, but if that were not so, still conditions are too serious for Congress to give ear now to any hymn of hate. Common sense forbids further effort if all these years have not sufficed to get prejudice the result it desires. It is now 70 years since the cry was raised that the Negro must be kept in his place. What the South by disfranchisement, peonage, the sale of convict labor and every other limitation has not done, the country will not wait for it to do.

The old guard will not permit the anti-lynching bill to pass without a bitter struggle. To do so would be to lose their political standby. Once the Negro is removed from the forefront of southern politics, they will have to learn something about government, and about economics. Actually the measure now before Congress has in it the birth of a new political era in which real issues will supplant the false one which served to put men like Tillman and Vardaman in office.

Events are moving in such a way that Henry W. Grady's dream of a new South is about to be realized, where in "the fairest and richest domain of this earth" by the gift of nature, Negroes can "reach the full stature of citizenship and in peace maintain it."

Leesburg, Fla., Commercial
December 10, 1937

Not being the chairman or any democratic committee, maybe we can declare ourself on the anti-lynching proposition without embarrassing a lot of party men who are, we have discovered, mostly democrats for revenue only. We say that states' rights do not include the right to lynch anybody and we are perfectly willing for a flock of G-men to go into or come into any state in the United States and ferret out the identities of any mob, Ku Klux or otherwise, that commits crime, especially murder. And we are perfectly willing for federal courts to try the offenders and mete out the proper punishment without fear of retribution from some local un-American, hooded organization that commits crimes and hides behind masks and fear.

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Belton, S. C., News
December 9, 1937

Senator Smith Flays Anti-Lynching Bill

(The following recent speech, in part of Senator E. D. Smith in opposition to the pending "anti-lynching bill" bespeaks, we believe, the sentiment of the whole South on this controversial proposal.—Editor.)

MR. SMITH: Certainly; and it would be more decent for them to come in frankly and say, "We want you to make an appropriation to enable us to buy the Negro votes of Harlem, of the southside of Chicago, and elsewhere where members of this unfortunate race live in large numbers." Count them; let us see how much it will cost and buy their votes, but, for God's sake, do not attempt to humiliate a great section in order to get the Negro vote.

MR. BANKHEAD: In the opinion of the Senator from South Carolina, how many votes would this bill get if Negroes were not voters?

MR. SMITH: Not one. The Senator from Alabama has hit the nail on the head; and tey, to the shame of this great body, that has helped demonstrate to a doubtful world that democracy is possible, that a dual form of government, collect- [illegible] indicated and indi- [illegible] where indicated, is prac- [illegible] certain long-haired men [illegible] uncultivated women who nev- [illegible] the real responsibili- [illegible] of life, but are now attempt- [illegible] so perpetrate such a dastardly [illegible] upon charge us, whose [illegible] is jeopardized with de- [illegible] legislation; in other words, they would let this brand be placed on us in order ti get a few Harlem votes.

So far as I am concerned, I represent, in part, the little storm center of the United States, little South Carolina, that passed the Secession Act single - handed and alone, and then seceded. I do not apologize for either act, because it showed the grit of those from whom I descended. The same courage is in us now. Nothing is done in malice, but our self-respect is touched for the dirty thing of getting votes - and getting them from where and from whom? I imagine those who are trying to get them are about on a part with those from whom they would be obtained. Any man or set of men that will stoop so low as this are no higher than the source from which they hope to draw their political strength. They are not going to get away with it.

Against my own family a crime was committed that would inflame the heart of any man. I saw a father-in-law 80 years old shot to death, his son shot to death, that son's bride of 8 months shot to death, and a poor, young Negro, who had belonged to certain members of my family, who attempted to defend this defenseless household, had his throat cut. Yet I and those of us whose blood and the sanctity of whose homes were jeopardized believed in letting the law take its course.

I invite the author of this bill to go and stay where we stay, surrounded by the conditions that surround us, and which have surrounded us since the days of the reconstruction. If he would do that, in place of trying to condemn us, were he to know as I know, and as every other southerner knows, the instigation for these outbreaks of lawlessness, if he had a drop of decency in him he would take off his hat in honor of the South emerging as it has emerged from the mere prevalent perpetration of this deed.

You may call it "humanitarianism"; but have you no respect for our officers, have you no respect for us?

Mr. President, I said I was not going ti make a speech, and I am not. I am simply serving notice that I am going to do everything within my power to keep this iniquitous and unjust stigma from being placed on my section of the country. What galls me more than anything else is that it comes from the so-called Democratic Party, which we have lived and which, in the dark days of reconstruction, was our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, a fact which made me feel kindly toward old Tammany. I shall never be able to pay my debt of obligation to that organization which stood between us and the death of our civilization.

Senators stand here and quote the Constitution. What is the Constitution to a man who is hunting votes? What does it amount to with him? I can call a polecat a geranium, but that does not make him any less a polecat. You may call this humanitarianism, but it is no less a vote-getting scheme. We all know that. If a certain distinguished Senator were not dead, but were still in this body, I shiuld like to quote what he said when I remonstrated with him about the injuction into this body of a similar bill.

No one knows or can know how we of the South efel about this thing. Mark my prediction: If this bill passes and becomes law through the Supreme Court declaring it constitutional you will have injected a rift into the ranks of the so-called Democratic Party that all the blandishments of the next generation will never heal.

Mr. President, I wonder sometimes what is the purpose of the treatment being accorded the South. The two-thirds rule in national conventions was abolished and we were eliminated from any participation in the naming of a President. You are about to pass, and perhaps, will pass, an hours and wages bill which, in the recrudescent state of my section, will crucify it. Now you come aling and say, "You are not competent to protect your prisoners"; and so the great purified, sublimated, glorified, crime-ridden New York and her collaborating State, those two peaks of morality and of political and social purity, must not only shed their light on poor benighted South Carolina and the rest of the South, but must send their gifted peace officers down there to help us eliminate lynching and promote racketeering.

MR. OVERTON: The Senator has lived all of his years in the South. The ostensible purpose of this bill is to protect the Negro from the crimes that are committed upon him by the people of the South. Ie desire to ask the Senator, what is the attitude of the South toward the Negro race; whether the South is not the best friend of the Negro race that is found in any section.

MR. SMITH: O Mr. President, that goes without saying. As a baby boy I was nursed in the arms of a Negro woman, whom I loved as devotedly as was possible. Then, later on, old Uncle Bill, who lived to be 103 years old, was my shelter in the time of storm. Many a time my father would lead me around behind the house, where was an old privet bush that I have hated from that day until this. It grew [illegible] the right length of sprou[illegible] teach the young idea how [illegible] he would take me aroun[illegible] the house in order to h[illegible] condition of my soul an[illegible] by the applicatiin of the hickory, and old Uncle Bill, whom my father revered and respected more than he did any other man, would just walk up without a word and deliver me from the hand of the slayer. Oh, I loved him with devotion.

The South knows the Negro, and knows his limitations. I state before this body - and I dare any of you to go down and investigate, that since the Supreme Court has declared that in certain cases involving Federal jurisdiction Negroes must be on the jury, when the Negroes themselves have a case they will take you aside and say, "Do, for God's sake, get me the best white men you can on the jury." Is it not so?

Down in the section from which we come the Negroes are treated just as justly, and more understandingly, than by these gentlemen up North. We do not call them "mister" and "mistress" because they have been accustomed to call us "marster" and "mistress." We do not take them into fellowship with us in the home or in the school, because it is dangerous. You know it. I know it. But give the Negro a schol to himself, a courch to himself, and treat him fairly, and the relation between the races has grown more amicable as the years have gone by. Pass this bill, and you will be responsible for the consequences.

Mr. President, you are about to put us in this position: Here is the party to which we have given allegiance and for which we have suffered. Though defeat after defeat came, we still were loyal to the principles of demicracy. You are about to put us in the position that was described by the Negro preacher who had more knowledge of the sound of words than he did of their meaning. He said to his congregation, "There air but two roads. One leads 'way up ti perdition and the other one way down to degradation." The Negro said "My God! If dat be true, dis nigger takes to the woods!"

Here in the home of our friends, so-called, we are threatened with the most humiliating expression of the other part of the country that ever was conceived in the heart if man. Why, it was born in the heat and passion just subsequent to the Civil War.

I wonder if the Senate is going to pass this South-baiting, South-humiliating measure. I wonder if it is. If we who love the Constitution and vloe fair play and decency, whether we are Southerners or not, can prevent it, the bill will not pass before the times arrives for another election and call ing together of Congress.

Mr. President, when the bill comes up I hope to make some extended remarks regarding it.

Bonifay, Fla., Advertiser
December 3, 1937

That Lynching Bill Again

We can not help taking the recurring discussion of the anti-lynching bill as a mere political trick. In the first place nine out of ten of those rip-roaring legislators who rant about an occasional lynching in the South don't care a penny what the South does with her outlaws, black or white. What they do want is votes for their pet measures. And this is how they get them:

At the beginning of each session they pick out one of the most obnoxious measures proposed by the nation's meddlers to regulate people in general, and Southerners in particular. Then they make fire-eating addresses to the subject and try to make it appear that the measure will certainly sweep both houses with little opposition. Then to make it still more impressive they keep a flock of obnoxious amendments hovering over the scene.

After they have the Southern representatives "all het up" about the matter and believing they are going to be overwhelmed with a new carpet-bag invasion, they begin to trade. "If you will just help us in this little matter, we will vote against the anti-lynch law. Of course our constituents will be down on us, but we will risk it and help you out." So with a nice batch of Southern votes tucked away in their pockets they let the poor negro or poor white man, for that matter, suffer the danger of lynching a little longer. It is 'most too good a game to give up. We may expect it to continue as long as Southern legislators fall for it.

Oxford, N. C. Ledger
December 7, 1937

A LAW WITH TEETH

Congress is about to pass the Anti-Lynching Bill, a measure aimed at the South and the abandon with which lynchings are sometimes committed.

The bill provides that heirs of a person killed or injured by a mob, may bring suit in a Federal court against the state subdivision responsible and recover damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000.

An officer found guilty of permitting a prisoner to be taken from him is subject to a $5,000 fine, or five years' imprisonment, or both. A mob is defined in the bill as "three or more persons who take from an officer a prisoner suspected of, charged with, or guilty of a crime and injures of kills him."

This newspaper believes in the inalenable right of every accused to a fair and honest trial. It appears that privisons of the act now before Congress are aimed at those spineless pismires who hold themselves up as officers only when there is no shadow of trouble to frighten them. The bill proposes to put the weight of responsibility where it ought to be.

The Anti-Lynching bill may be an infringement upon States' Rights, but when a state becomes unable to guarantee the right of a fair and impartial trial to one of her citizens, then she has no claim to States' Rights and it behooves the Federal government to offer that protection.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
December 13, 1937

[illegible] READING ON ANTI-[illegible]CHING

For those who are passionately convinced that what this country needs is federal interference in a state's han[illegible] of lynching matters, we cite an instance in Gatesville, N. C., as evidence of how Southern whites can sometimes regard Southern Negroes.

An aged Negro woman died in Gatesville. "Virtually the entire population of Gatesville," reports The Associated Press, "attended the funeral. County Judge A. P. Godwin and several white ministers conducted the services. Six white men were pallbearers."

The old Negro mammy probably never gave a thought to the need of a federal anti-lynching bill. And her Southern white folks never gave a thought to her save one of kindly respect.—The Birmingham News.

Summit Press Sun
Dec 2 1937

News Briefs

By A. C. Anderson

The anti-lynching bill pending in Congress has been side-tracked for the time being, but will be up again when the agricultural bill is out of the way. The anti-lynching bill is clearly a gesture to the negro vote of the north. There is no particular demand for such a law at this time, even if it would serve the wholesome purpose its advocates claim for it. Under such a law there would be many instances of injustice and the crime of lynching would be increased rather than diminished. The statistics on lynching show a steady decline in the last 60 years. The year 1882 is as far back as the figures are given on this terrible crime, and in that year 113 people were lynched in the United States, 64 of them being white men. In the years 1882, 1883, 1884 and 1885 there were more white people than negroes lynched, 1884 being the banner year for whites and 160 being the number of white people lynched that year in the United States, along with 51 negroes. The banner year for this form of crime was 1892, when the total number lynched reached 231 in that year. The total number lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, both inclusive, was 4,681, of whom 1,311 were white people and 3,370 negroes. The lowest number lynched was in 1932, when two whites and six negroes were unlawfully executed. In the all-time record Mississippi leads, having to her discredit 469 lynchings, as against a total of 460 for the state of Georgia, covering the period from 1882 to 1935. These figures were prepared by the Director of the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, and vary slightly with figures recently quoted on the floor of congress.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
December 28, 1937

ASTOUNDING POLITICAL PLAY

IT IS disconcerting to note from Washington dispatches that one of the first things scheduled to come up in the regular session of Congress is the anti-lynch bill.

When the Congress adopts an attitude of this kind it is comparable to a father spending his time playing checkers while his family remains in need.

There is not the slightest urgency about the anti-lynch bill. Lynchings have become rare and are diminishing. They present no great and pressing problem. Yet the nation is faced by a great and pressing problem that must be subordinated to the anti-lynch proposal.

The business situation demands immediate attention. Unemployment is increasing and these matters should be the primary concern of the Congress. When they are subordinated to consideration of a measure like the anti-lynch bill the Congress is thinking in terms of politics and not in terms of the national well-being. The advocates of the bill are pushing their claims because of the hope of lining up negro votes in the next election and are not putting the needs of the idle and the needs of languishing business to the front.

A viewpoint so warped and so at variance with the needs of the hour is astounding.

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Macon, Ga., Telegraph
December 17, 1937

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

Think for Yourself and Let Others Enjoy the Privilege to Do So.—Voltaire.

LET IT COME—AND QUICKLY

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Of course I may be lynched or stop a few more people from speaking to me when I say let the anti-lynching law come.

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In Georgia particularly, the law will be of the greatest help, for Georgia has a prohibition law that is not enforced in many counties. Georgia has many sheriffs and police that do not try to enforce her prohibition laws, some that encourage violations, some waxing fat along with bootleggers from the illegal traffic.

Since beer was made legal in the state, bootlegging has greatly increased, arrests for drunkenness has doubled in counties not selling beer and increased from four to seven times in counties selling beer. New local prisons have been built and a new state prison—chain gangs are crowded, fighting and shootings numerous, jails and calabooses often full, highway accidents and deaths at high records, and the end is not in sight.

We Southerners agree, almost to a man, that most of the crimes committed in the South are caused by liquor drinking; that most of the crimes for which men are lynched were caused by the evil stimulating influence of liquor, and that most of the lynchings are perpetrated by men with liquor on their breaths. We also agree that there is no humbler, better-natured, industrious and peaceable servant than the sober Negro, nor a worse, more degraded, senseless and unreasonable man than the drunken Negro.

I offer the thought that the officers of the law are responsible for most of the crimes caused by liquor, in that they allow the bootleggers to operate. I offer the thought that the people, the voters, are responsible for the law violations, in as much as they elected the officers, and in some cases, knowing the officers would not enforce prohibition laws. And now, supposing the anti-lynching bill was a law and a county or two stood to pay the penalty, which would mean heavy taxation on the taxpayers. Would the taxpayers, the voters, elect sheriffs at the next election who were not in sympathy with the prohibition laws? Would the down voters elect a mayor or aldermen who would not enforce the law? It's a safe bet that if a few counties in Georgia were facing the penalties for lynchings, these counties and the rest of the counties in Georgia would see that the law was enforced. Knowing the Negro's weakness for liquor, the voters would elect officers with outstanding prohibition records. The taxpayers would be afraid to take chances.

The anti-lynching law will awaken voters to their responsibility as all the literature, eloquence of speakers and tears of good women have not done. Let it become a law, and all laws of the South will be enforced, taxes will be reduced, merchants will be more prosperous, poor folks will have more food and clothing, drunks will become scarce, crimes and courts will be fewer, chain gangs will be less populous—a sure wave of peace and prosperity will come to the South.

Without liquor, the South has nothing to fear by economic supremacy of any section; without liquor, the Southern Negro is the best laborer in the country; without liquor, there is no fear of trouble between the two races in the South without liquor there will be less poverty, crime illiteracy and property owners will have a fair less tax burden.

Once before the North, it was said in ill will, offered the South economic freedom, which was refused, only to have it forced on it. It is said that the Union offered to pay for the freedom of the slaves, that many Southerners were willing to free the slaves, but that many politicians agitated against freeing them and brought on the war. Some of the best men in the South opposed the war, among them General Robert E. Lee, and only after war became inevitable did they take up arms for the South. No section of country ever went through more calamities, and no section ever prospered more after war. The South lost so much in wealth and in men that its quick recovery causes one to wonder what the South would have been like and how rich it would be today had it avoided war and received the Union's offer of pay for its slaves. History makes a poor comparison of the Old South of slavery, slave song and story with the New South of freedom, industry and glory. Few Southern hearts would replace the South of today with the South of old.

So, whatever the motives of the forces in congress that are trying to force through this law; whatever the Southern politicians say of the evils its operation would inflict on the South it does seem to offer an opportunity for the South to advance to new welfare, new prosperity and riches and new glories. It may prove to be a blessing—another blessing in disguise. Let it come.

GEO. A. DAWSON.

Dawson, Ga.

Brunswick, Ga., News
December 30, 1937

Eight persons were lynched in the United States during 1938 which is providing more points of arguments for those advocating federal anti-lynching legislation.

Batesville, Miss., Panolian
December 30, 1937

ANTI LYNCHING BILL USED AS "BOGEY"

James Preston, one of the brightest newspaper men in Washington, says:

The famed anti-lynching bill is being used as a bogey man to frighten little Senators. The farm bill was moved forward in the Senate by at least a tacit threat: "If you don't push this bill, we'll make you vote on the anti-lynching bill."

And when and if the wage hour bill reaches the Senate the same tactics will be used. Some folks wonder why the frightened little Senators don't realize that no matter how long they put it off, the anti-lynching bill will eventually be put to a vote. And private polls indicate it has more than enough votes to pass, especially since more and more members are saying they might as well vote for it because it can't be enforced anyhow.

Knoxville, Tenn. News Sentinel
December 30, 1937

Time To Reconsider!

LET'S look at the 1937 lynching figures, released yesterday.

Florida	3
Mississippi	2
Tennessee	1
Alabama	1
Georgia	1

Many Southern Congressmen are still fighting Federal anti-lynching legislation. We don't believe that they are truly representing the sentiment of the people from their home states. We believe that the anti-lynching legislation would be passed in most of these five Southern states where lynchings occurred this year. We have little doubt that it would be passed in Tennessee.

Lynching is not condoned by the majority of the citizens in communities where they occur. An Institute of Public Opinion poll during the past year, published by The News-Sentinel, showed that sentiment over the country was overwhelmingly for anti-lynching legislation. The South, considered alone, voted for the proposed measure.

We think it is time our Congressmen reconsidered their stand on this question. Lynching must stop even if it takes Federal legislation to do it.

Lynchings—1937
Legislation Relating to.

5705

Rocky Mount, N. C., Telegram
April 15, 1937

BOOST FOR ANTI-LYNCHING

While southereners in Congress were reported as opposed to the anti-lynching bill, which has been argued there for weeks, and northerners generally were reported in favor of it, the South itself, through the lynching of two Negroes in Mississippi, gave the bill one of its biggest boosts.

As far as the anti-lynching bill itself is concerned, there is probably less need for such a law than for enforcement of such laws as we already have. While we know of no southern state which has a statute definitely pointing out that it shall be unlawful to lynch a man, in the manner in which they are often lynched below the Mason and Dixon line, all states certainly have laws against murder and lynching can be classed as nothing less than that.

Even while we do not maintain that it would not be best for such a law to be enacted, we see little hope for greater success for it than for the present laws against murder unless citizens cooperate with law-enforcement officers in respecting law and order and unless officers themselves exercise greater initiative in dealing with this evil which stands as a black spot upon the records of those states in which lynchings occur.

Lynching is too barbaric to have a place in modern society and the sooner its ugly head is buried forever the better it will be for the country—and the South. We believe the education of the illiterate black will have a great influence in wiping out this practice.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 18, 1937

Our Own Press Turns Against Us!

IN their mealy-mouthed attitude toward the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, the two Hanson papers, The Birmingham News and The Birmingham Age-Herald, present a disgusting sight.

These two newspapers, in editorials rambling for more than a half column, take a jumble of facts, fancies and figures, and reach some sort of conclusion that lynchings are awful, that states ought to be allowed to handle them, but that the federal government, prodded on by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, might know best after all.

In the first place, The Birmingham News attributes, beyond "the shadow of a doubt," the House approval of the Gavagan bill to the recent double lynching in Mississippi. "It is a matter of conjecture," says The News, "whether an anti-lynching bill would have been passed at this session of Congress if it had not been for this affront to American civilization in Mississippi."

That statement is inane and ridiculous, and unworthy of a reputable paper, whose own news columns will refute it. Even BEFORE the Mississippi lynching occurred, the milder Mitchell anti-lynching bill had been shunted aside, with Republicans and Northern Democrats uniting behind the Gavagan bill. Press dispatches, BEFORE the Mississippi lynching, made it quite clear that the House would vote this week, and that, in all probability, the bill would be passed. And the House did vote, passing that bill 276 to 119. In the face of this two-to-one vote, does The Birmingham News mean to tell us that the Gavagan bill would have failed had it not been for the Mississippi lynchings? Where would the votes have come from? The South voted solidly against the bill. Is The News actually so naive as to believe that 80 congressmen from the North and West, prodded for years by parlor pinks and their negro constituents, waited until this Mississippi incident before flopping to the anti-lynching bill. Neither reason for the roll call will bear The News out in its contention.

The News goes further to accept as a fact a recent poll by the American Institute of Public Opinion which showed that the South, as well as other sections, favored a federal anti-lynching bill. We maintain that any such findings are ridiculous—as ridiculous as many another poll which this country has seen in recent months. We invite both The Birmingham News and the American Institute of Public Opinion to poll the man in the street, not the man in the plush-lined office. We invite them to poll the hundred or more Southern congressmen who, with hardly an exception, opposed the Gavagan bill. Could these congressmen have been so uninterested in representing their constituents, to say nothing of preserving their political futures, as to have bucked public opinion in a body?

As for The Age-Herald it takes several hundred words to tell why the "Gavagan" bill, as it insists on calling the measure, should not be adopted and then concludes that, after all, federal intervention might be desirable.

We blush to think of what the earlier champions of White Democracy in Alabama—Houston, Morgan, Knox and others—would think of the exhibition which we have today—wherein two of the state's largest newspapers offer to sell their political birthright for a mess of Pulitzer prize pottage. We can understand it when The Birmingham Post, with its editorial policies dictated from New York, approves a federal anti-lynching bill. But Alabama-owned newspapers? Never!

Most of us disapprove of lynchings; most of us were shocked by the exhibition in Mississippi last week. But we, for one, are not willing to let a hostile federal agency, prodded to action by a bunch of Northern politicians, take over our state courts under a law which is openly, admittedly and belligerently aimed at the South.

If the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People can induce the federal government to take over our law courts, it can also induce the federal government to take over our ballot boxes, and we do not intend to be a party to any such outrage.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
April 15, 1937

Anti-Lynching Legislation

The torturing and lynching of two negroes near Duck Hill, Mississippi, came at a time when the anti-lynching legislation was being debated in the national house of representatives and added fuel to the flame of agitation for the passage of such federal law.

The double lynching in Mississippi is unjustifiable and indefensible from any standpoint—but it is a matter of concern and responsibility solely for Mississippi. Federal regulation or attempt to regulate in matters involving the police powers and law enforcement of a soversign state are without the province and authority of the federal government. Except such things as are clearly defined and stipulated as belonging to the federal government and its jurisdiction the framers of the constitution zealously guarded the several states from invasion and trespass on that score.

Lynching should be stamped out. In the scheme of civilization, however sorry a spectacle that scheme appears at time, there is no place for mob violence and mob rule. But enactment of anti-lynching laws by congress will not result in progress being attained to that end. The states must handle that problem. In most of them mob violence does not crop out. In South Carolina for the past several years the state has been kept clean of lynching bees.

Anniston, Ala. Star
April 24, 1937

Anti-Lynching Measure

(Decatur Daily)

The Gadsden Times, admitting that the members of the recent Mississippi mob which took the lives of two Negroes, did violence to the constitution, declares also that those who voted for the federal anti-lynching measure did worse for they violated the very constitution they had sworn to uphold.

It was a tragic chapter in American history that those Congressmen who cast their ballots for the measure wrote in the House of Representatives and The Daily, for one, trusts there is sufficient manhood in the Senate to prevent its duplication.

Senator Oscar Underwood successfully defeated such a measure by a parliamentary filibuster which completely tied the Senate's hands until he was assured that the unwanted legislation would not be pushed. Surely there are members of the present day Senate who could adopt similar tactics.

If it becomes necessary to completely deadlock the Senate to prevent it committing this grave offense against the states of the South, then by all means let us have the deadlock. Filibustering constitutes a harsh measure but if nothing else will suffice, then let us start a filibuster which will be remembered a hundred years from now!

The Times, thoroughly aroused to the menace of this nefarious legislation, says:

"The deplorable lynching of two Negroes by a mob of stupid illiterates in Mississippi is comparable in its ultimates to the deplorable lynching of the United States Constitution by a mob of stupid lawmakers in the House of Representatives.

"The Mississippi lynchers did violence to the civil law, bringing disgrace upon their state, while the equally excited mob in the House of Representatives did gross violence to the fundamental law of the land. In one respect they were worse than the Mississippi lynchers because they had taken a most solemn oath to uphold the Constitution which they proceeded to lynch upon the floor.

"Moreover, these congressional lynchers of the Constitution knew what they were about. They knew it not only because they were warned of the illegal nature of what they were doing, but, because they have had the benefit of education, they possessed an intellectual knowledge of the nature of the violation they were committing.

"As Senator Borah has pointed out, the anti-lynch bill that has been given approval is a flagrant violation of the Constitution. It seeks to give to the general government certain privileges that are clearly prohibited and which it has no more right to exercise than it has to tell the individual citizen what time he shall arise in the morning and retire at night.

"The men voting for it knew also that the Supreme Court as now constituted, would throw it into the scrap-heap, but they ignored this and passed the act upon the theory that the court shortly is to be enlarged and that the new court, created to carry out legislative purposes instead of carrying out the provisions of the Constitution, would place the stamp of approval upon it because of expediency and not because of its legality.

"This makes vivid the warning of Senator Glass that an enlarged Supreme Court carries a threat to the very civilization of the South, and lends point to the grave warning of Congressman M. C. Tarver, of the Seventh Georgia District, that it threatens not only the election laws of the South, but points to destruction of those laws under which necessary segregation is practiced in the South.

"It is a first step in a crusade to destroy those laws under which whites and blacks are separated in schools, in hotels, in restaurants, upon trains and elsewhere, and throw them all together as has been done in the North. In sum, it is a movement to recreate in the South the conditions of a half century ago. And why? Because to do these things pleases certain Negroes in certain states where the Negroes hold the balance of political power.

"Southern civilization is to be bartered for Negro votes in doubtful states. That is the sum of it, as Senator Glass has seen, as Congressman Tarver has seen, and as has become clear to many other Southerners who are capable of seeing beyond the ends of their noses.

"And one of the tragic phases of the situation is that no thought is being taken of the Negroes in the South. What they may suffer through the recreation of the intolerable condition of a half century ago enters into the accounting of these white politicians who fawn at the feet of Negro politicians and who seek to use both the whites and the blacks in the South as pawns in the scurvey game of fence-building for individual benefit."

Culpepper, Va., Exponent
April 29, 1937

FEDERAL LYNCHING LAW UNWISE.

On most issues, state and national, we find ourselves in general agreement with our estemed contemporary, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, which is now regarded as one of the great liberal newspapers of the South. It is, therefore, with regret that we are forced to differ emphatically with its aggressive campaign for a Federal Anti-Lynching law in which it has gathered support from a number of Southern newspapers.

That these newspapers do not represent Southern sentiment on this subject is best illustrated by the fact that a lone Democrat from the South, Congressman Maury Maverick, of Texas, and we believe one Southern Republican from Tennessee, voted for this bill, when it passed the House a few days since.

We are opposed to this proposed law on several grounds. In the first place it is almost certain to prove ineffective and unenforceable for the simple reason that if lynching is made a Federal crime the officers from whom prisoners are taken and the participants in future lynchings will have to be tried by Southern juries. When the prisoner happens to have been charged with one particular crime, and especially if there should exist reasonable probability of his guilt, the Government would find itself utterly unable to convict either officers or participants.

In the next place, it seems to us unfair to penalize a city or a county with heavy fines because under stress of passion or excitement a prisoner has been taken from officers and lynched. Often this will take place before either the county or city has opportunity to furnish necessary protection. We have no idea that Southern juries will enforce this provision of the bill.

In the third place, we believe that the bill is clearly unconstitutional. Only by straining the Constitution could the Federal Government acquire this extraordinary power to interfere in state affairs.

Again, lynchings are steadily decreasing throughout the nation; states are adopting necessary legislation, as instanced in Virginia, and there is no real necessity for Federal legislation, even though at times the country is shocked by such mob violence as recently took place in Mississippi.

In opposing this legislation, we place ourselves once more on record as condemning lynchings as barbarous and as a crime which should be stamped out, but it will not be done, in our opinion, by such legislation as that so warmly endorsed by the Times-Dispatch. Southern representatives in the House, rather than our contemporary and newspapers in accord with it, reflected by their practically unanimous adverse vote the real sentiment of the South on this measure. We are glad to note that all Virginia Congressmen were opposed to its passage.—Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
April 27, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill Likely to Die

BEHIND the politics of the Anti-Lynching bills now before Congress, there is a bit of trickery. The only Negro member of Congress, Representative Arthur Mitchell of Chicago, introduced a bill which he claimed met the Constitutional objections raised against other such measures. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opposed this measure, claiming it did not go far enough.

Then Representative J. A. Gavan of Tammany Hall, introduced his bill which passed the House.

However, if the Senate runs true to form, it will permit the Anti-Lynching bill to die. A bill sponsored by Senator Wagner of New York is now before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A leader in the opposition is Senator Borah, who contends that the bills are unconstitutional.

"There is nothing in this move but politics," Senator Borah is quoted. "And, when these bills come up on the Senate floor, I intend to say so. It is nonsense to talk about the Fourteenth Amendment as a justificiation for such measures. The Fourteenth Amendment was intended to insure that States did not pass laws which discriminated against any race."

The Gavan bill provides that any county in which a person is seriously injured or put to death by a mob shall be liable to the injured person or his legal representatives for a sum not less than $2,000 nor more than $10,000. Civil action shall be prosecuted by the United States District Attorney to recover this sum, and he may levy on county property to secure it. Thus, some lynched Negroe's family might some day find itself owning a schoolhouse.

In the past the Senate has argued such bills, and permitted the Northern Senators to angle for the Negro vote. There is a strong opinion that such measures are unconstitutional, and it is being predicted that Anti-Lynching legislation will be allowed to die a slow death in the upper branch.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to

5706

Sanford, Fla. Herald
April 16, 1937

Making Matters Worse

After being repeatedly rebuffed in Congress for fifteen years, most of that time under the control of Republicans, the Gavagan anti-lynching bill rode to an overwhelming victory in the House yesterday, now that it is completely dominated by Democrats. Be it said to the credit of Florida's representatives that with a single exception they joined other Southern Democrats in fighting supporters of the bill from the North and East.

Aimed at the South this bill would subject a county in which a lynching occurs to a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 for the purpose of recompensing the family of the victim and would also subject the sheriff, or any other peace officer, who permitted a prisoner to be taken from him by a mob for the purpose of lynching, to a fine of $5,000 and up to five years in prison.

Just how the sheriff is to prevent a mob from taking a prisoner from him under certain circumstances is not made clear but it is presumed that under the compulsion of a $5,000 penalty and five years in prison he will be made sufficiently desperate to use his sawed-off shotguns and fight to his last drop of blood in defending his prisoner. And the taxpayers, confronted with the prospects of paying a $10,000 judgment to the family of the prisoner would doubtless align themselves with all their side arms on the side of the sheriff.

It is clear that we have in this proposed law the makings of an interesting little civil war wholly unrelated to the usual economic problems of the day, to "sit-down" strikes, or mortgage foreclosures. And after the smoke of battle has cleared away, and the victim has been hanged to the nearest tree, despite the efforts of law enforcement officers and taxpayers, we have then the pretty prospect of federal agents swooping down upon the county to collect its fines and put the sheriff in jail.

It is possible that the vote of 277 to 119 carrying this bill to victory in the House was influenced to some extent by the deplorable lynching in Mississippi early this week when two negroes were burned to death by an angry mob for the slaying of a country merchant. No one deplores such acts of lawlessness more than the Southern Congressmen who voted against the measure but in spite of this instance, as one of them pointed out, lynchings in the South have declined 5,000 percent since the peak in 1892.

If the Gavagan bill really would serve to prevent or even retard mob law, there would be much to say in favor of it in spite of its utter disregard for the rights of individual states, but in our opinion it would have exactly the opposite effect. It would not prevent a single lynching, and it would be likely to turn the hanging of one or two individuals into a free-for-all community-wide battle.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS PASSED in 1937, a law to end the lynching of Negroes by making peace officers responsible for the safe conduct of their prisoners into a duly constituted court of justice. The law also permits an injured person to institute suit against the guilty peace officer for personal damages. The safeguards provided are of the most elementary sort; yet the storm of sectional debate that preceded its passage was a civil war in miniature. The solid South, with the honorable exception of Maury Maverick, fought as one man against the invasion of the "states' rights" to "take care" of their colored citizens in their own way. "The color line in the South is a permanent institution," said Cox of Georgia, who charged that the measure would "mongrelize the white race." "When you talk about equality for niggers in theaters and restaurants," shouted Ford of Mississippi, "every man with a wife and daughter will arm himself to the teeth . . ." More enlightened members insisted that the South was working out its problem and pointed to the decrease in murder by mobs. The bill was passed on April 15 by a vote of 277 to 119—and the final argument was a particularly brutal lynching of two Negroes at Duck Hill, Mississippi, two days before. It now goes to the Senate. The passage of the Gavagan bill is a hopeful event. But the very simplicity of its provisions and the passions it roused throw a lurid light on the long road the Negro must yet travel before he reaches genuine social and economic emancipation in the republic that set him "free" three-quarters of a century ago.

Newport News, Va. Press
April 17, 1937

ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Passage of the anti-lynching bill by the House of Representatives does not come as a surprise. The measure was bitterly opposed by representatives of the southern states. But while it was being considered two Negroes were being burned to death by a mob at Duck Hill, Miss. Hence Representatives from other parts of the country paid little attention to pleas for state's rights or promises that the South would make an end of lynching.

The *Daily Press* regrets that the House of Representatives has found it necessary to enact an anti-lynching law. But there seemed nothing else for it to do. Nor does there appear anything for the Senate to do but concur. State's rights do not mean that the people of a community have a right to take the law into their own hands, or that officials who are sworn to uphold the law must turn over to mobs without a fight prisoners whom they are sworn to protect. The South has had ample time to make an end of savagery of this kind, and has failed to do so. True, there are fewer lynchings than there used to be. But there are still far too many.

Virginia has put an end to lynchings and the other states could do likewise if they wanted to. But they do not want to. Hence we have barbarous lynchings, investigations which are nothing more than a coat of whitewash, and then more lynchings.

The Gavagan bill provides that an officer who permits a prisoners to escape his custody and be injured or put to death by a mob would be subject to a maximum fine of $5,000 and a maximum prison term of from five to 25 years.

Participants in mob violence would be subject to similar prison terms, and the county in which a prisoner is seized or put to death would have to pay his family damages ranging from $2,000 to $5,000.

If this measure becomes law, and it appears that it will, officials who are charged with the safekeeping of prisoners will be more careful than they have in the past. "Surprises" in which they are "overpowered" by a mob, "none of the members of which they are able to recognize" will become less frequent. And there will be fewer mobs, for a real attempt will be made to enforce the law, and by men who are not in sympathy with the practice of lynching.

Those states which tolerated lynching have only themselves to blame for the anti-lynch law. And it is significant that the most complaint concerning the law comes from states in which lynching has been most prevalent.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
April 19, 1937

House Passes Anti-Lynching Bill.

The Gavagan anti-lynching bill has passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 277 to 119 after considerable debate along sectional lines. The measure was opposed by practically all Representatives from Southern States. Congressional leaders predict that it will encounter greater opposition in the Senate, where the debate also will be largely along sectional lines, with Senators from Southern States in opposi-

The Gavagan bill provides that an officer who permits a prisoner to be taken from his custody and be injured or put to death by a mob would be subject to a maximum fine of $5,000 and a prison term of from five to twenty-five years. Members of lynching mobs would be subject to similar prison terms, and the county in which a prisoner is seized and put to death would be required to pay his family damages ranging from $2,000 to $5,000.

That a Federal anti-lynching law would immediately put a stop to mob murders could not be expected. All laws, Federal and State, are violated. But it is safe to say that if the pending bill should be enacted there would be fewer lynchings and there would be cause to hope that such outrages would cease before a great while. Officers would attempt to give their prisoners better protection, men would have a greater hesitancy to participate in lynching mobs, and counties would be more strongly opposed to lynchings within their borders.

The House has passed anti-lynching bills before but they have always been killed by the Senate. Southern Senators have opposed them and when necessary have staged filibusters to defeat them. These Senators speak for fewer and fewer of the people whom they represent. It has been fifteen years since the last anti-lynching measure was defeated in the Senate, and during that time Southern sentiment in favor of such a law has grown greatly. Southern people, resenting lynchings and humiliated by the fact that those inexcusable crimes are confined almost altogether to their section, have abandoned hope that the States will suppress mob lawlessness.

Anniston, Ala. Star
April 18, 1937

Gavagan's Bill Passes

In spite of the brave fight made by Congressman Sam F. Hobbs and other representatives from the South, the anti-lynching bill fathered by Representative Gavagan of New York has passed the House by a vote of 277 to 119 and now goes to the Senate for final consideration. Here it will have to overcome the hurdle of preferential administration measures now on the calendar and the further obstacle of unlimited debate that was not permissible under the rules of the House. Its ultimate fate, therefore, becomes problematical.

Senator Borah, who comes from the West and thus cannot be accused of sectional prejudice, has already stated that the bill is unfair and unconstitutional and we are in hearty agreement with his contention. We believe it is unfair to make innocent persons, who abhor the very thought of lynching, suffer a penalty along with the guilty, as this law does, and we do not believe that there is any delegation of authority to the Congress in the Constitution that will sanction such power as is contemplated in this measure.

It was in anticipation of an instance of this kind that The Anniston Star assumed a position in favor of President Roosevelt's proposed court reform as opposed to a constitutional amendment that would give two-thirds of the members of the Congress a power to override Supreme Court decisions. For if the court should hold such a law as this invalid, as it apparently must do under the terms of the organic law, the bill then could be passed over the court's veto by a two-thirds vote, as might be done if sufficient pressure were brought to bear. It is not believed, however, that any learned and fair-minded court would uphold such a law, which is patently an invasion of state rights.

Nevertheless, we must face the fact that in a recent poll a majority of the people of the South were indicated as being in favor of federal legislation along this line and we might as well make up our minds to the fact that unless the separate states and governmental subdivisions do their full duty in the premises we shall eventually be compelled to invoke the strong arm of the federal government to put an end to the iniquity of lynching. But there is a remedy within the states. It lies in election of men of the calibre of Ex-Governor Thomas E. Kilby of this city, who in four years secured more convictions for the crime of lynching than have been secured by all other states of the Union since his term of office. Be it said to his credit, too, that Governor Bibb Graves has given unstinted cooperation in helping to wipe out this disgrace here in Alabama. Had it not been for his assistance, for instance, Roosevelt Collins probably would have been lynched here last year. As it was, however, Collins was given an orderly trial and his conviction of rape has just been upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Moreover, there is another remedy in which the federal government may have a part. It was the parent government, then controlled by the states that would foist the Gavagan measure on the South, that freed the slaves—which the North had sold to the South—before they were ready for freedom, then fastened upon us the crimes of Reconstruction as a result of which we were then and have been since unable to train the Negroes for citizenship. It is out of ignorance that lynching emerges, according to authentic studies made by the Southern Interracial Council, and only ignorant Negroes are guilty of beastial crimes, according to facts brought to light by these same authorities. Accordingly, if those behind the Gavagan bill really want to approach this problem as constructive statesmen, let them get behind the Fletcher-Black-Harrison bill and the Bankhead farm tenancy bill and make it possible for us to raise the educational and economic standards of the Southern masses, black and white alike.

Nor is this a plea for the South alone. Jefferson, Monroe and other of the founding fathers recognized that without an educated citizenry there could be no stable democracy in this country. Hence, they supported federal aid to education. Furthermore, since the North makes most of our finished products, that section will profit more by increasing the purchasing power of the South, which can be made possible only through education and a more widely diffused ownership of the agencies of production. And the improvement of the Southern market should become of especial interest to the manufacturing North in view of our rapidly diminishing foreign trade and our approach as a nation to an enforced economy of strict nationalism, for the time may come when they will have to rely on this section to keep their factories in operation.

These conditions are basic to the national welfare, whereas such a measure as the Gavagan bill is born in prejudice and can only result in a widening of the breach in sectional understanding—a consummation that is devoutly to be deplored in a light of progress that has been made in recent years towards the goal of interracial cooperation and national solidarity.

It has been observed by The Birmingham News that the enforcement of the provisions of the Gavagan bill would rest with the district judges of the federal courts in this section and that since they are all Southerners we have little to fear if our local authorities will do their full duty. But it is not so much the law itself to which we object as the element of force that underlies its conception. We have made remarkable progress in stopping the lynching evil without any outside coercion and in the interest of local self-government and state rights we hope the Senate will be able to show Mr. Gavagan the error of his way.

Just Another Bloc?

Representative Hatton Sumners, Dallas, Texas, Democrat, has branded the 58 anti-lynching bills now before Congress as unconstitutional and affording "an inexcusable, dangerous extension of federal power not calculated to be helpful to the cause professed."

Without arguing about that, we would like to see some congressman get up on his hind legs and tell why there are 58 anti-lynching bills pending, but then everybody knows why. There are 58 congressional districts in which incumbent congressmen hope to get some votes by adding another factor to the complex game of racial politics by which most northern urban congressmen get elected to office. It is one of the grim jests of history that in the very areas of America where racial realities are most fervently denied, the real basis of politics and government is the exploitation of race consciousness.

It is doing the negro citizen no service to make him a pawn in this game of machine politics. It is in fact an affront to his citizenship to ask him to become just another alien racial bloc in gangster government.

It is the northern urban regions that stand to be harmed by anti-lynch laws, not the south. Lynching here is becoming an anachronism, at the same time that anarchism tempered by gang rule is becoming the actual mode of government in the urban north.

Madison, Fla., Recorder
April 16, 1937

We cannot think that a federal anti-lynching bill would be constitutional, without amendment of the constitution, for it would clearly be a federal interposition in a state matter; and yet Southern Congressmen will find it very embarrassing to fight the bill unless the State does severely punish those perpetrating the lynchings. In the present case, the crime of which the lynched negroes were accused, was not the one so often advanced, although it was heinous and warranting legal execution, and would probably have resulted in legal execution if the evidence justified conviction. We of the South rightly do not want the rest of the country poking its nose into our administration of justice; then the thing for us to do is to keep justice on a high plane and to insure to every person within our respective borders, whatever the color of his skin or whatever his nationality, protection in his person and property, fair trial in a duly constituted court if he is charged with crime, and sure punishment if he is found guilty.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5787

MANEUVER OF SOUTH'S 4 BLOC FAILS

Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON.

The intended coup of Congressman Hatton W. Sumners of Texas to forestall a forced vote on the Gavagan Anti-lynching Bill, by announcing Judiciary Committee hearings on fifty-nine such measures for Wednesday, fell short of its mark.

With 202 signatures to his petition to discharge the committee from consideration of the bill, secured by Thursday, when Sumners made his announcement, Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan of New York had secured the last of the necessary signatures.

According to rules of the House, automatically compels House action on the floor—a action on the floor—a present scheduled for April

It will be the first time in years that the House has voted on such legislation. The Dyer Bill was passed by that body in 1922. According to Walter White, NAACP secretary, who has pledged in writing from 265 Congressmen that they will vote for the measure, prospects for favorable action are good.

[illegible] now contemplating [illegible] for support in the Senate [illegible] a filibuster blocked a [illegible] measure brought before [illegible] by Senators Wag[illegible]

[illegible] and Costigan during the last Congress. Some twenty Southern Senators are said to be planning to re-enact this move.

Hearings Not Affected

Sumners announced Monday that the committee would not interfere with the scheduled hearings on the forty-eight other anti-lynching bills which [illegible] has been holding up.

Considered the leader among Southern Congressmen opposing federal interference with lynching, Sumners is reported to have assured his friends that no such measure would [illegible] pass the hearings [illegible] the Judiciary Committee.

Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell of Illinois circulated a letter proclaiming the Sumners hearing announcement. He is author of one of the pending measures, generally considered milder than the Gavagan Bill.

The name of Rep. Arthur W. Mitchell, who has repeatedly refused to sign the Gavagan petition on the ground that Sumners had promised to hold hearings on the anti-lynch bills, is not included in the 218 signatures.

The Gavagan Bill provides penalties for counties in which lynchings occur, as well as punishment for county officers, while the Mitchell measure has no county penalties and provides for punishment of county officers only when lynchings occur "without justification."

Vote Assessed

Gavagan's petition insures House debate, limited to three hours for each side, and a vote.

Congressmen whose signatures appear on the petition include:

NOTE: With the exception of those so designated, the Representatives reported to have signed the petition are Democrats. R. Republican; F.L.: Farm-Labor, and P.: Progressive.

CALIFORNIA: Harry L. Englebright (R.), Frank H. Havenner (P.), Richard J. Welch (R), Albert E. Carter (R), John H. Tolan, John J. McGrath, Bertrand W. Gearhart (R), John Steven McGroarty, R. Jerry Voorhis, Thomas F. Ford, John M. Costello, John S. Hornor, Byron N. Scott, Frank Buck.

COLORADO: John A. Martin.

CONNECTICUT: Bernard F. Kennelman, William J. Fitzgerald, James A. Shanley, Alfred N. Phillips, Jr., J. Joseph Smith, William M. Citron.

DELAWARE: William P. Allen.

ILLINOIS: Raymond S. Smethurst, Edward A. Kelly, Harry P. Beam, Adolph J. Sabath, Leo Kocialkowski, Chauncey Thompson, Everett M. Dirksen (R), Leslie C. Arends (R), Frank W. Fries, Edwin M. Schaefer, Lewis D. Long.

INDIANA: William T. Schaffer, Virginia E. Jenckes, Eugene A. Cowen, Finly H. Gray, Louis Ludlow, Glenn Griswold.

IOWA: Steven C. Fisher, Cassius C. Dowell (R), Paul C. Stefanich (R), Vincent F. Harrington, Lloyd Thurston (R).

KANSAS: Wm. P. Lambertson (R), D. Glover (R), Harrold W. Patterson (R), Edward C. Rees, John M. Houston, Clifford R. Hope (R).

KENTUCKY: John M. Robsion (R).

MAINE: James C. Oliver (R).

MARYLAND: T. Alan Goldsborough, Vincent L. Palmisano, Andrew J. Hickey.

MASSACHUSETTS: Charles R. Clason (R), Joseph E. Casey, Pehr G. Holmes (R), Edith Nourse Rogers (R), Charles L. Gifford (R), Richard B. Wigglesworth (R), Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (R).

MICHIGAN: George G. Sadowski, Fred W. Shafer (R), Andrew J. Transue, Jesse P. Wolcott (R), Fred L. Crawford (R), Roy O. Woodruff (R), John Lesinski, Frank E. Hook, Louis C. Rabaut, John D. Dingell, Albert J. Engel (R).

MINNESOTA: August H. Andresen (R), Henry G. Teigan (F.L.), Melvin J. Maas (R), Dewey W. Johnson (F.L.), Harold Knutson (R), Paul J. Kvale (F.L.), John T. Bernard (F.L.).

MISSOURI: Thomas C. Hennings Jr., C. Arthur Anderson.

MONTANA: Jerry J. O'Connell.

NEBRASKA: Terr Norton (R), Charles F. Sindergr, Henry C. Luckey.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Arthur B. Tuttle (R), Charles W. Tobey (R).

NEW JERSEY: Charles A. Wolverton (R), Elmer H. Wene, Clifford R. Wolf

[illegible] K. Sager, Edward A. Kenney, Fred A. Hartley, Jr. (R), Edward [illegible] Frank W. Towey, Jr., Mary T. Norton, Edward J. Hart, D. Lane Powers (R), Donald H. McLean (R).

NEW MEXICO: John J. Dempsey.

NEW YORK: Robert L. Ramspeck (D), William R. Barry, Joseph P. Pfeifer, Thomas H. Cullen, Marcellus H. Evans, Andrew L. Somers, John J. Delaney, Donald L. O'Toole, Eugene J. Keogh, James A. O'Leary, Samuel Dickstein, Christopher D. Sullivan, William J. Bloviis, John J. Boylan, Theodore A. Peyser, Martin J. Kennedy, Sol Bloom, James J. Lanzetta, Joseph A. Gavagan, Edward W. Curley, Charles D. Millard (R), William T. Byrne, Bertrand H. Snell (R), Francis D. Culkin (R), Fred J. Douglas (R), Stephen F. Kelly, Walter G. Andrews (R), Alfred F. Beiter, James H. Sheridan, Daniel A. Reed (R), Matthew J. Merritt, Caroline O'Day, Hamilton Fish (R), W. Stanley Corbett (R), James M. Fitzpatrick.

NORTH DAKOTA: William Lemke (R), Usher L. Burdick (R).

OHIO: Joseph A. Ellzey, Herbert S. Bigelow, Byron B. Harlan, Arthur W. Allaire, John F. Hunter, Thomas A. Jenkins (R), Arthur P. Lamneck, Harry A. White (R), Clay W. Hamer, Robert T. Secrest, William A. Ashbrook, Lawrence E. Imhoff, Michael J. Kirwan, Martin L. Sweeney, Robert Crosser, Anthony A. Feighan, John McSweeney, Harold G. Mosier, W. E. Thom, Joseph A. Dixon.

OKLAHOMA: Wesley E. Disney, Jack Nichols, Lyle H. Boren.

OREGON: Nan Wood Honeyman.

PENNSYLVANIA: Leon Sacks, James P. McGranery, Michael J. Bradley, Frank J. G. Dorsey, Michael J. Stack, Jr., Walter Drew, James Wolfenden (R), J. Roland Kinzer (R), J. Harold Flannery, Albert G. Rutherford (R), J. William Ditter (R), Benjamin K. Focht (R), Guy J. Swope, Benjamin Jarrett (R), Daniel Ginsberg, Charles I. Faddis, Charles R. Eckert, Joseph Gray, Robert G. Allen, Charles M. Crosby, James L. Quinn, Herman P. Eberharter, Henry Rinaldo, Matthew A. Dunn, Robt. F. Rich (R).

RHODE ISLAND: Aime J. Forand.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Fred H. Hildebrandt, Francis E. Case (R).

TENNESSEE: B. Carroll Reece (R), J. Will Taylor (R).

UTAH: J. W. Robinson.

WASHINGTON: Warren G. Magnuson, Knute Hill, John M. Coffee.

WEST VIRGINIA: Robert L. Ramsay, George W. Johnson.

WISCONSIN: Thomas R. Amlie (P), Marty Sauthoff (P), Gardner R. Withrow (R), Raymond J. Cannon, Thomas O'Malley, Michael K. Reilly, Gerald J. Boileau (P), George J. Schneider (P), Bernard J. Gehrmann (P).

In addition to this list, the following members promised to sign the petition but to date have not done so:

Ralph Brewster (R), Maine; Richard T. Buckler (F.L.), Minnesota; Ralph E. Church (R), Illinois; D. Worth Clark, Idaho; Robert P. Hill, Oklahoma; Marvin Jones, California; Karl E. Keller, Illinois; Charles H. Leavy, Washington; John Lesinski, Michigan; J. A. Meeks, Illinois; Charles A. Plumley (R), Vermont; Elmer J. Ryan, Minnesota.

The following Congressmen [illegible] the NAACP in writing prior to the November election that they would [illegible] everything in their power to [illegible] anti-lynching bill to a vote and to [illegible] it but they also have not as yet signed the Gavagan petition:

Frank M. Simpson (R), Illinois; Lee E. Allen, Edwin V. Champion, Illinois; Samuel B. Pettengill, Indiana; Clyde T. Ellis, Missouri; Will Rogers, Oklahoma; Oliver W. Frey, Pennsylvania.

White Ministers Seek Support Of Anti-Lynch Bill

NEW ORLEANS, Apr. 29. (ANP)—Terming lynching "a brutal and barbaric disregard of the Christian ideal of the value and worth of human life," the Evangelical Ministers' association of New Orleans addressed a letter Wednesday to United States Senators John H. Overton and Allen J. Ellender of Louisiana, urging their support of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill now before the United States Senate. The letter received prominet display in local dailies.

The letter said, in part:

"As ministers of the Gospel and as citizens of the state which you represent, we wish to inform you of our deep interest in the approval of your vote to the support of this measure. In a democracy, legal procedure must flow through the re[illegible]ized channels of the law. Lynching' is not only a flagrant violation of this procedure, but it is also a brutal and barbaric disregard of the Christian ideal of the value and worth of human life."

Signing the letter were the Rev. Norman A. Maunz, First Evangelical church; the Rev. Oscar C. Laubengayer, Bethel Evangelical church; the Rev. Roy J. Stock, St. Paul's Evangelical church; the Rev. Fred C. Scweinfurth, Salem Evangelical church; the Rev. Norman L. Stock, Bethany Evangelical church; the Rev. A. J. Scherer, Trinity Evangelical church; the Rev. J. C. Reiger, Metairie Evangelical church; the Rev. Herman Borne, St. John's Evangelical church; the Rev. Louis Schweichhardt, St. Matthew's Evangelical church.

Evangelical ministers have taken the lead in bringing about interracial good will here.

Chester, S. C., Reporter
April 19, 1937

A Grave Situation

The House, by a vote of 277 to 119, passed the Gavagan anti-lynching bill yesterday. The bill

...Senator Gavagan is a Democrat representing the negro school district of Harlem. The proposed law would make lynching a federal crime and subject peace officers having in custody accused prisoners, subject to fine and imprisonment and the county in which the lynching occurred will be heavily fined. For some time we have felt that one of the gravest questions involved in the loss of state's rights by encroachment of the federal government was the race problem. This outburst to take over the policing of the states by the federal government is proof that our contention was justified. It now appears that Senator Guffey knew what he was talking about when, during the last presidential campaign he made the assertion that the Democrats had to have the negro vote to win. We now make this prediction: If the Senate passes this bill and it becomes a law, there will come a deluge of lynching that will overshadow any period we have yet had in this country. Throughout the South, and for that matter, other sections of the country, the officers will not attempt to protect prisoners, for the simple reason that they will not arrest them, and those charged with certain crimes will fall into the hands of mobs that will carry out the lynchings. Those charged with certain crimes will fall into the hands of the mob and never see the sheriffs nor their deputies. Lynchings in the South, if this bill becomes law, will increase to an astonishing degree. To say that officers neglect their duty in such cases is to talk foolishness. You cannot prove that an officer is purposely absent, that the failure to arrest the alleged criminal was a premeditated act. Under the present conditions in the South lynchings have decreased in a marked degree. In fact there are in other sections of the country almost as many lynchings as there are in the South. But that is neither here nor there: this idea of white supremacy in the South is deeply rooted and it will be maintained to the utmost, we believe. Segregation of the black and white races. We will not tolerate social equality, inter-marriage nor the opening of mixed schools. Under the present conditions the negroes of the South have made no small advance. Under a law such as Representative Gavagan proposes the advancement of the negroes of the South will be set back a hundred years. That's our prediction, and it is an honest expression, spoken without malice and with the best of good will towards the negro race. You might with equal justification pass a national police law to protect Japanese, Chinese, or any other alien race. Specific punitive police laws should seldom be passed by the Congress. Such laws belong to the states, not the national government. But in this day when Congress is regimenting agriculture, industry and business—things commercial, it is not surprising that the attempt to regulate the social life of individual states should come to the fore. If the present administration presses too far in the crusade to beat down the traditions of the white people of the South, the white people of the South will abandon the Democratic party. There will be no solid South controlled by Democrats.—Union Times.

MAIL BAG

CONGRESSMAN MASSINGALE OPPOSES ANTI-LYNCH BILL

To the Editor:

Some time back I received a letter from you recommending that I support the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill. I will say to you that I considered this bill and the Mitchell bill, [illegible] to be real plain about it, I think they are both ill-timed. I mean by this to give it as my opinion, in the light of what has happened within the last ten or fifteen years toward stopping or preventing lynching(it is a mistake to pass any kind of legislation that might have a tendency to drive a wedge between the increasingly good and wholesome relationship that has been steadily growing between the two races, particularly in the South.

Nobody, of course, would condone lynching. It is a terrible, horrible crime, whether committed on a black or white. Sentiment has been such that this crime is almost extinct. I believe that records disclose that in 1936 there were only eight lynchings among 130,000,000 people. There should not have been one, of course.

Under the Gavagan bill I am afraid that a person accused of any unnamable crime will be deprived of the protection of the local law enforcement officials that he would have without this law. In fact, it amounts to a suggestion that for a law enforcing official to escape the penitentiary himself, when he knows a mob is forming, instead of going after a person charged with crime, he had better absent himself rather than take chances on having the prisoner taken from his possession. I know that even now there is not always good faith on the part of the officials, but generally, such is not the case.

I was reared among the Negroes. My father before me respected them and had their confidence, and they believed in him. Likewise, I believe in them. I think some of the finest characters I have ever known were Negroes, and I really believe that they come as near doing their duty as American citizens as any other people. What America needs along this line more than anything else, according to my idea, is that the Negro race produce more men of the type of Booker T. Washington, and that the white race produce more men of the type of Henry W. Grady. Racial prejudices cannot exist if men are educated properly. I do not believe that any code of law will help promote that right kind of education and good feeling. The Gavagan Bill, in my judgment, will fall far short of this goal.

The Gavagan Bill has the vicious feature of making the real friends of law enforcement, and these are the ones who have taxable property in a community, go down into their pockets and pay damages for an uncontrollable element. These people hate lynching or mob violence in any form, and yet they must be penalized because they have others living among them who know and respect no law.

Furthermore, the Gavagan Bill is so extreme as to make it possible for the arrest and conviction of some enforcing official who has spent his lifetime trying to overcome prejudices and to prevent the crime of lynching, simply because a federal judge might find that such an official has not done his duty under that law.

In addition to these things, the law may be so construed that it will destroy a county government which is, of course, a local unit of a state and of the United States, and might be the means of subjecting officials of a county government to imprisonment for contempt of court for the simple reason that such officials, on account of a constitutional barrier, cannot do the things required for raising money with which to pay the damages that may be assessed against the county.

Very sincerely yours,
SAM MASSINGALE

ANTI-LYNCH BILL

From the Cuthbert Leader:

Until Uncle Sam went legally dry we had a high opinion of him as a law enforcer. Since his failure we hope he will not try to enforce any anti-lynching enactment. While the motive behind the proposed law is very admirable, the law proposed is bad.

Elberton, Ga., Star
April 20, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

During the debate on the anti-lynching bill in congress the past week, Congressman Paul Brown made one of his most logical and powerful speeches against the measure. It attracted the attention of The United States News which publishd an extract from it. The bill passed the House, but it is hoped it will meet the defeat it deserves in the Senate.

Southerners do not condone lynching. They believe in the law taking its course, but they do not believe in penalizing innocent people for what a few misguided individuals may do.

Mr. Brown shot hard and straight at northern proponents of the bill when he said: "I pray that it will never again be necessary for the Klan to protect the South, but those of you from other parts of this nation are showing mighty little consideration for our conditions down home. Do not come talking to me about what you call the great horrible crime of lynching. We can handle our own troubles. You go home and clean up your own back yards of some of this nasty pile of crime, filth, disloyalty and disregard of law."

Cleveland, Tenn. Banner
April 17, 1937

UNCALLED-FOR LEGISLATION

The passage by the house of congress of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill is regrettable. It is to be hoped that the measure will meet the defeat it deserves at the hands of the senate.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, correctly brands the bill "an effort to force through congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an immoral measure."

The Georgia delegation vigorously opposed the bill both by their votes and on the floor of the house. For this they are to be warmly commended.

This iniquitous measure is aimed at the south. Particularly obnoxious, as pointed out by members of congress from various southern states, is the provision that any county in which a prisoner is seized by a mob or put to death may be subjected to a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000, the money to be paid to the victim's family. The possibilities in such a law are alarming to contemplate.

The chief iniquity of the bill, however, lies in the fact that it is the worst example, to date, of the growing tendency to force federal interference into affairs which are strictly matters for the states themselves to handle. The bill strikes at one of the most fundamental of states rights, the right to exercise exclusive police power over its own citizens. Federal policing of crime in any state is a dangerous innovation an done that could easily lead to utter submergence of the states as governmental entities.

There can be no doubt that the charge, made by southern opponents of the bill, that it is aimed at the south, is true. Though the black record of lynching includes many mob crimes committed in other parts of the country, it is self-evident that, had there been no lynchings in the south the measure would not have been introduced and would not have received the strange support of a temporary coalition of northern Democrats with the Republican minority.

The lynching is a frightful crime which cannot, on any grounds, be condoned, no intelligent person will deny. That it is a shameful blot upon modern civilization is not open to argument.

But, emphatically the cure does not lie through federal interference with the sacred rights of the states. The cure, as for all social evils, lies in education and it evident, to the unprejudiced, that education is steadily wiping out the evil.

The records reveal that, since the peak of 1892 the number of lynchings in the country as a whole has decreased 8 000 per cent. The greater part of this improvement has

Education is curing the evil. Edu- ...ing legislation is need... ...ay not of the type of ...

Occasionally we are still shocked ... ...ction will perfect that cure in due ... and horrified by the report of an- ... Federal assumption of a duty the Gover... other mob outrage but they become ... that is emphatically a duty of the ... steadily less frequent. Public con- ... state is not the prescription for the ... demnation grows stronger and this ... disease. ... day has passed when any man may ... It is to be hoped the senate will ... safely boast that he was a member ... promptly scotch this evil proposal. ... of a lynching mob.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to

5708

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Wilmington, N. C. News
April 16, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The News is not nor has it ever been the champion of mob law, but it has opposed and still opposes such measures as the Gavagan anti-lynching bill yesterday before the house.

Its opposition is founded on the obviously discriminatory phases of this bill on the clear encroachment of state's rights that it represents.

The bill is aimed at a certain form of lawlessness, unfortunately common to the south, but it may be noted in this connections that infamous crimes in other sections which the constituted authority was even more impotent than in the south, never [illegible] citation for federal law.

[illegible], the province of the federal government is to deal with crime of a federal nature, but this bill would send Uncle Sam in to take [illegible] and in the purely domestic affairs of the various states.

It sets a precedent that might easily be followed until state's right has been usurped and taken over by the federal government.

As it stands, the government sets up a guardianship over certain sections regarding a certain crime. It smacks more of an emergency rule laid down for a conquered province than of a law passed for the safety of the nation.

several districts where Congressmen Boren, Hill, Johnson and Nichols hail from, is that they resolve themselves into a oneness on election day, supporting without reservation for re-election these courageous representatives in the lower house of the Federal legislature.

To re-elect these men to Congress will help to stiffen the courage of those Oklahoma congressmen who failed us. These timid men are watching. They will be wanting to know what the folk back home are going to do to the Oklahomans who by their votes in Congress seek to blot out the crime of lynching. When election day comes for the fine men who dared to stand for the right, the Black Dispatch is going to be on the firing line for every one of them and we hope that every black man and woman in their districts will close ranks and get squarely behind a program which will re-elect them to office.

Culpepper, Va., Star
April 22, 1937

COMPLIMENTS VIRGINIA.

Congressman Hamilton Fish, of New York, in favoring the Federal anti-lynching law now pending in Congress, paid a compliment to Virginia when he said, "At the outset of my remarks I want to except the State of Virginia. There has not been a lynching in the State of Virginia for 10 years or more. Why? Because that great Commonwealth has written into the law an adequate anti-lynching provision giving the Governor full power to prosecute the members of the mob. If this example had been followed by the other States of the southland, this bill would not be before us today."

Virginia's strong anti-lynching law was passed in 1926 upon the recommendation of Governor Byrd. Although in the preceding 10 years Virginia had a number of lynchings, in the past 10 we have had none.

Every State should enforce its own laws. Lynching is murder and should be punished accordingly.

It is to be regretted that the refusal of other Southern States to arrest and punish those guilty of lynching is now being used as justification to give to the Federal Government the authority to invade sovereign states with Federal troops if need be to enforce a law of local concern.

The passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill destroys one of the remaining vestiges of the authority of the states to maintain home rule and control its local affairs.—Harrisonburg Record.

Close Ranks on Boren, Hill, Johnson, Nichols

Four Oklahoma congressmen, Lyle H. Boren, R. P. Hill, Jed Johnson and Jack Nichols, voted for the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill. The Negroes in the districts where these fine men reside should not forget this. The action of these Oklahoma congressmen is, however, not only a compliment to them individually, but also to the liberality and fairness of their white constituency.

The vote of these men is indicatory of a fine, healthy interracial relationship developing in this state. These congressmen know that down in the districts where they received their commissions to represent Oklahoma, the majority of the white people are opposed to mob murder and believe in the integrity of the courts and the right of such tribunals to try men accused of crime.

The action of these men is a challenge to the Negro voters in their districts. These men have broken the ice. They are today treading on the border land of uncertainty, where other members of the Oklahoma delegation feared to tread. The challenge comes to the Negro voters in the

Congressman Massingale and Lynching

Congressman Sam Massingale, one of the Oklahoma congressmen who voted against the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill, has written the Black Dispatch a letter this week regarding his position in this matter, and which appears on this page in the Mail Bag column.

As usual, along with all of those who declare anti-lynching legislation unconstitutional, the congressman admits there is a cancer eating at the heart of America, but he immediately creates a no-man's land where nothing can be done about it. He admits that mobs destroy human life but he is afraid if the federal government stops the mob it will in doing so destroy state and county government.

In this connection we would like to ask Congressman Massingale one direct question: "Which is the more important: human life, or state and county government?"

In answering this question Congressman Massingale should direct his attention to the protection that white people should have as well as black folk, under our form of government, for Oklahoma is the one state in the Union where more white people have been lynched than black folk. Records compiled by Congressman Mitchell show that Oklahoma has lynched 116 white people and 44 Negroes. We state this so that Congressman Massingale can see that an anti-lynching bill in Oklahoma will benefit white people as well as black.

As congressman mere negation will not absolve Representative Massingale of responsibility which is his. He says he likes Negroes, and that his father had great respect for them, and that Negroes believed in his father. But can Negroes believe in the son of Sam Massingale's father? That is the important question. Congressman Massingale's father doth not represent Oklahoma in Congress. His son does, and it is to the son we look for succor and aid. The Oklahoma solon refers to Booker Washington and Henry W. Grady. Sure we need more Gradys and in addition Negroes want to fix it so that when an embryo Booker T. Washington is born, he will be safe from the brutal and vicious reach of the mob.

In his letter to the editor, Congressman Massingale says before the deprecation

In his letter to the editor, Congressman Massingale says that a person ac-

cused of an unnamable crime will be deprived of the protection of the local law enforcement officials."

Mob victims do not have that protection now and it is because of this very lack of protection that the Gavagan law is proposed. Take, for example, the sheriff of the county. A man who mingles daily with the citizens and is known everywhere and who himself has handshaking acquaintanceship with thousands of folk. Think of all of these southern sheriffs and a coroner's jury, when called, delivering always the same verdict: "The Negro was slain by unidentified persons." Such a lie stinks to high heaven and there is not a white man in the South but who knows it is behind this hypocrisy the mob hides.

We raise this question because of the reference Congressman Massingale makes to "the real friends of law enforcement" in the South. These are also unidentified persons in certain communities and we think Congressman Massingale manufactures them out of pure fiction.

Here is what the congressman says on that score:

> "The Gavagan Bill has the vicious feature of making the real friends of law enforcement, and these are the ones who have taxable property in a community, go down into their pockets and pay damages for an uncontrollable element. These people hate lynching or mob violence in any form, and yet they must be penalized because they have others living among them who know and respect no law."

If these "real friends" of law enforcement, to whom Congressman Massingale refers, will appear at the next lynching as observers and make a few notes regarding the prime movers in the savage Roman holiday for the benefit of the coroner's jury and later appear in court as witnesses, there will be no need for federal anti-lynching bills. No friend of law enforcement, nor protector of human life, will remain silent while human butchery and savage torch burnings are practiced in his community.

Our notion is that any county government condoning such crimes and lawlessness ought to be destroyed, and furthermore, we realize that no such breaking down of constituted authority could occur without the backing of public sentiment in that community. This is the important reason why the community becomes stained with guilt and ought to be penalized. The Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill fixes heavy penalties upon counties and there is where the penalty belongs.

Senator Borah and other members of Congress are always harping on the unconstitutionality of anti-lynching legislation. No such argument was made when the Lindbergh anti-kidnap legislation was passed. Kidnapers were making dollars unsafe here in America when the Lindbergh kidnaping law was passed. Congress rushed to protect property rights. We should not forget that the men who wrote America's fundamental instrument said they were guaranteeing to American citizens life, liberty and property.

Columbus, Miss. Dispatch
April 16, 1937

ITS COMMUNISTIC

The anti-lynching bill in Congress is Communistic.

It is inspired principally by Communists who are eternally trying to stir up race trouble in the South.

The Southern people and the negroes get along pretty well together.

Here are the negro's best friends.

Here he is treated better than any other place on earth.

Here his relations with the white race are more peaceful and satisfactory than anywhere else.

Yes, the Southern people and negroes get along pretty well.

Let the Communists and the Federal government leave us alone.

St. George, S. C., Eagle
April 22, 1937

AGAINST "SOLID SOUTH"—RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION

The State:

Who said the 'Solid South" is but a tradition, a condition mythical!

Whoever he is, there is much, very much in his assertion. Call the roll on the once honored principle of the Democratic party, "tariff for revenue only," and whence now would come the supporting responses? To many Southern congressmen it would be something new, which they had not "digested." But many who understand it would be impelled to vote for protection; protection sugar-coated with the prefix "reasonable"—for some of their influential constituents "need" protection other sections are furnishing the fighters against high tariffs.

Call the roll on the question of states' rights on almost any imaginable issue but one, and the South would be found "scattering" in support. If the issue should be the sovereignty of the states on one side, and the surrender of sovereignty in exchange for, say, $100,000,000, we greatly fear that noble phalanx at Washington representing the South—we do not claim they would vote to "take the dough." Yet we believe that in days of old when Southern knights were bold—in the days long before the popular primaries—Southern statesmen not only had convictions on this issue but were ready to make any sacrifice to support these convictions.

Times have changed and Southerners have changed with them. But on one, and only one issue, is the South changeless. On one question do the representatives of the South vote with rock-like solidness.

When the roll was called in the house of representatives last week on the bill giving federal courts jurisdiction in cases of lynching, not one Southerner faltered in his sacred obligation to uphold the integrity of the sovereign states. On that one issue they are gloriously "solid for the constitution."

Speakers from the South charged Northern and Western Democrats with attacking the stronghold of their party; attacking the fortress where the spirit of the party was kept alive during the long years of political adversity. True, quite true. People are forgetful. Even Southern congressmen have forgotten that a supreme court, saved the South from that which would have been a thousand times worse than federal jurisdiction over lynching cases.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
April 16, 1937

Northern Democrats Strike A Wicked Blow At The South

NOW that the Northern Democrats have thrust the Gavagan anti-lynching bill through the House, the people of Alabama will turn with interest to the Senate in the hope that Messrs. Black and Bankhead play a more conspicuous part in opposing this iniquitous measure than did their colleagues in the lower chamber.

We realize that Alabama's delegation in the House is packed with freshmen and sophomores, but even so we yearn for the day not so long ago when such men as Oliver, McDuffie and Huddleston would have let the nation know that this state does not intend to submit to any such usurpation of its powers as the Gavagan bill provides.

We are a little ashamed that men from Georgia, Mississippi and Texas had to lead the fight.

Be that as it may, the bill now goes to the Senate, and every White Democrat in Alabama will look to Black and Bankhead in the knowledge that they, with a few other Southerners, can stop this bill if they wish.

It may not be good politics for Mr. Black and Mr. Bankhead—if they have national political ambitions—to join in the militant opposition to this measure, but it will be good politics from an Alabama standpoint—and Alabama sent them to Washington. We suggest that our two senators be prepared to drop their mail and lobby investigations, their court reform stump-speaking and their various other activities in order to filibuster against this bill until Christmas, if necessary.

"For more than 100 years the South has kept the Democratic Party alive. Now it has grown fat and powerful, it proposes to turn upon the South and deal it this wicked blow."

Those true words are from Representative Cox of Georgia, and if Southern senators permit this bill to become a law when they were able to block similar measures so easily during Republican administrations, they will indeed have let a "wicked blow" be struck at the South. All Alabamians who believe in white supremacy will expect Mr. Black and Mr. Bankhead to do their duty.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

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SENATE POLL SHOWS 56 FAVORABLE TO ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Press service N.A.A.C.P.

Independent Questionnaire by a Washington Information Service Reveals 47 Positive Votes, With 9 More Favoring Measure; Only 20 Listed as Definitely Opposed

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Washington, D. C., May 14.- A poll of the Senate on the question of whether or not senators favored the Gavagan anti-lynching bill has revealed that 56 senators - 7 more than a full majority - are in favor of the measure.

Of these 56 votes, 47 are positively certain for the bill, while 9 are for it with certain reservations.

Only 20 votes are listed as definitely opposed to the bill. Nineteen senators are listed as uncertain.

The poll was an independent one conducted by one of the several leading information services operating here. These information services collect information on legislation and release it to subscribers. From time to time, they conduct polls on important pending legislation. Supporters of anti-lynching legislation had nothing whatsoever to do with the poll and, therefore, the results have double significance since they can not be interpreted as inspirational propraganda.

In the notation accompanying the tabulation, the information bulletin says:

> "The poll indicates that this bill on lynching can pass the Senate if it should come to a vote now. The big issue concerning the bill appears to be whether or not it will be brought to a vote. Indications are that it will not. The tabulation above is a reflection of sentiment as of noon Friday, May 7.

Many "Uncertain" Senators Friendly

Of the 19 senators listed as "uncertain" on the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, 16 have at one time or another indicated that they are friendly to legislation, N.A.A.C.P. officials said here today.

The N.A.A.C.P. has received permission to make the poll public, but the association is withholding the names and classifications of the senators until it can receive an answer from the 16 senators in the uncertain group whom it believes are favorable to the bill. The N.A.A.C.P. is confident that at the very least, 8 of these 16 will declare for the bill, making a total of 64 or 65 votes for the measure in the Senate - an overwhelming majority.

"This poll by Congressional Intelligence is simply one more proof of our assertion that there are more than enough votes to pass the anti-lynching bill in the Senate if it can be got to the floor," said Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary. "The poll by the Institute of Public Opinion in December showing 70% of the people in the country in favor of an anti-lynching bill plus these polls in the House and Senate showing overwhelming majorities in Washington for the bill indicate plainly that the major task now before all supporters of this legislation is to exert the utmost pressure upon the leadership in the Senate to get it to bring the bill up for a vote.

"Messages should be sent to Henry F. Ashurst, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, to Senator Joseph H. Robinson, majority leader, to Vice-President John N. Garner and to Senator Frederick Van Nuys and Robert F. Wagner, urging them to take steps to see that the bill is brought up for a vote. The address for all Senators is: 'Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.'"

Columbia, S. C. Record
May 8, 1937

HARLAN AND THE LYNCHING BILL

When revelations were made recently as to acts of violence, occasionally mounting to homicide, against trade unionists and union organizers in Harlan county, Kentucky, [Southern members of congress were quick to point out the analogy to lynching. Representative Robsion, of Kentucky, was twitted in the house on April 23 with having voted for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, for Robsion's district contains Harlan county.

Robsion was one of the members from below the Mason and Dixon line who voted for the Gavagan bill. However, Robsion is a Republican. The striking point about the vote of more than 2 to 1 by which the house passed the bill on April 15 was the presence of certain Southern Democrats in the affirmative ranks. Maverick, of Texas, and four fellow Democrats from Oklahoma voted aye. Creal, Democrat, of Kentucky, went with his Republican colleagues for the bill, as did the two Republican members from Tennessee. As for the other border states—five of the 11 votes recorded from Missouri were for the Gavagan bill, all six from Maryland, all six from West Virginia, and the one from Delaware—Democrats all but one.

In certain quarters the Gavagan anti-lynching bill if it is enacted at this or at the 1938 session of congress, is expected to discourage lawless acts like those in Harlan. For although the bill is termed an "anti-lynching" measure, it is directed not merely at lynching—in fact, the word "lynching" occurs nowhere in the measure. It is directed, rather, at any case of mob violence; and for the purposes of the bill a mob may consist of as few as three persons "acting in concert without authority of law."

However, the Gavagan bill punishes mob violence only when directed against a person in the custody of "any peace officers." This limitation seems to have been inserted with the idea of strengthening the bill in a test of constitutionality. The constitutional basis of the bill is that the mob's action has the purpose or the result of depriving its victim of his guaranteed right of due process of law or equal protection of the laws.

The question of constitutionality aside, this limitation on the bill's scope may seriously weaken its effectiveness if it should be enacted. In the house debate, the point was made that approximately one-half of all persons lynched in the United States in recent years had been taken from the custody of public officials. In the recent "blow-torch" murders in Mississippi, the victims were seized by the mob without having been apprehended by state or local officials. Representative Robsion made the further point: "Some state or county officials might say, 'Why take the chance of being prosecuted or the county being subjected to pay damages?' and neglect or fail to take the accused person sought by the mob into custody."

This narrowness in scope of the Gavagan bill may be rectified when the measure is considered by the senate judiciary committee, now holding it up until the court reform bill is acted upon, and then by the senate, provided it gets to the floor of the senate. The Southern members who are prepared to filibuster against the bill may even vote to make it apply when victims have not been taken from the custody of officials, in the hope of weakening the case for the constitutionality of the measure.

Raleigh, N. C. Times
April 20, 1937

A FEDERAL "ANTI LYNCH" BILL AND THE COURT CONTROVERSY

NATURALLY enough the peculiarly horrible Mississippi lynching made a renewal of the effort in Congress to pass a Federal anti-lynch bill aimed at the South, on the theory that negroes are the sole victims of mob violence.

There are several such bills now pending and there is distinct danger that it will be impossible to preserve the truth that it is not necessary, in order that a lynching be committed, for the victim to be black, or for hanging or torture to be the method of the mob. Every year sees ten mob murders committed in the North and West for one lynching in the South; yet despite a constantly bettered record, the general opinion persists that lynching is peculiarly a Southern crime.

The chief objection to any such Federal statute is, of course, the invasion of the authority of the States to deal with their own criminals by law. If the Supreme Court could still be counted upon to follow its long-time precedents, no such law would be worth the writing. But what may happen when the Supreme Court is reconstructed and the northern and western negroes are voting the Democratic ticket, no one is prophet enough to predict.

Richmond, Va. News-Leader
April 16, 1937

UNCLE SAM IN LYNCHINGS.

Southern Democratic Senators doubtless will filibuster and may defeat any anti-lynching bill at this session of Congress, but Southern leaders as a group will not make a further fight against Federal legislation of this general nature.

For more than ten years, non-political spokesmen of the South have been urging the States to enact anti-lynching laws. Warning after warning has been given that if the States did not act, the Federal Government would. A few States took that warning and passed statutes that have put an end to lynchings. The other States adopted no laws and took scant action of any sort to stop mob murder. They have invited and they deserve what will be imposed on them under the Gavagan Act or a substitute for it.

When States will not assume the obligations that run with their cherished rights, they cannot expect those rights to be respected.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
May 17, 1937

A New Anti-Lynching Plan

WITH lynchings in the South having been reduced by 5,000 per cent in the last 40 or 45 years, we see no reason for federal anti-lynching legislation in any form.

If we must have such a bill, however—it looks as though the Northern Democrats, as a sop to their negro constituents, will never be satisfied until we do—the so-called Hallion suggestion is the best yet put forward.

Frank H. Hallion, a negro who was born and reared in Lynchburg, Va., but now living in Jamaica, N. Y., is sponsoring a plan devoid of nearly all the objectionable features of the Gavagan bill, which has already passed the House.

Hallion, seeking some member of Congress who understands the attitude of the South toward lynchings to introduce his bill, feels that it will win the approval of white Southerners as well as intelligent leaders of his own race.

The proposed law provides that federal authorities, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (of G-man fame) and the federal courts may assist in the investigation of lynchings, the apprehension of mob members and their prosecution when such aid is requested by the governor or the legislature of the state where the mob outrage has occurred.

A law such as this is far preferable to the Gavagan bill, which would permit federal authorities to take over the affairs of the state and its courts in such a manner as never before in the history of America. The Gavagan bill, by allowing a virtual federal invasion, is little better than the iniquitous Force Bill of the last century which was filibustered to death.

No one could object to the Hallion plan on the grounds that it permits a federal invasion of states' rights—it merely allows us federal assistance in solving our difficulties. Furthermore, it is probably constitutional—something which the Gavagan bill probably will not be, unless as we now fear, the Supreme Court is packed with gentlemen who have no sympathy with the South.

The principal objection to the Hallion plan is that it just carries us one step farther in our alarming and increasing reliance upon the central government. The people of no state can be completely happy, or free, as long as their policies and courts are dictated from a central authority several hundred miles away—an authority in which we, as only one of 48 states, have a very weak voice. It is the parallel evil of absentee ownership in industry and agriculture cropping up in government.

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Brunswick, Ga., News
May 17, 1937

KNOX IS OPPOSED TO ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

HE TELLS LOCAL GRAND JURY TODAY THE MEASURE IS UNFAIR AND UNJUSTIFIED

Judge Gordon Knox in his charge to a Glynn county grand jury today declared the anti-lynching bill now before congress and which stands a fair chance of being passed is unfair and unjustified.

Deploring lynching as a horrible crime, he said all good citizens were opposed to this violation and they should do all in their power to wipe it out, but at the same time the present bill before congress, if passed, will work a hardship on many communities.

Judge Knox pointed out that under the provisions of the bill a county in which a lynching occurs is subject to a penalty of $5,000. He also said that the bill provides that a county in which a lynching occurs must pay $10,000 to the estate of the person lynched. Such a law, he said, is unfair to all good citizens and he hoped the bill will be defeated, he said. An innocent county will be subject to the heavy penalties. As an example, he pointed out, a mob in an adjoining county could secure a prisoner, bring him to this county and lynch him, and although this county had no connection whatever with the crime, it would at the same time be responsible and subject to the $5,000 penalty and would be liable for the $10,000 to be paid to the estate of the person lynched.

Judge Knox also told the Glynn county jury that they should aid in every way possible in preserving the timber supply of this section of the state. Timber is the most valuable asset in the surrounding territory, he said, and is daily growing more valuable with the coming of pulp mills to this section. It is the duty of our citizens to protect and preserve the surest income we have, he said.

Burning of woods has long been practiced, at a great loss to timber owners, he said, and the law prohibiting this practice should be rigidly enforced. The man who sets fire to his land to provide grazing pastures for his cattle does great damage to the land of his neighbor, he said, and everything possible should be done to put a stop to it.

The judge told the jury he was not going to call particular attention to any laws that should be investigated and enforced. He said it was the duty of grand jurors to see that all laws are respected, it matters not whether or not they may meet with the approval of the community or grand jurors. As long as they are on the statute books, he said, they should be enforced.

He also told the jurors it was their duty to look into the public affairs of the county, to inspect county offices, buildings and highways and see if county affairs were being wisely and economically administered.

The jury was organized with the selection of Guy Walker as foreman, D. C. Staley as clerk, and J. E. Abbott bailiff.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
May 18, 1937

Senator John H. Bankhe[illegible] at his home in Jasper on a visit, speaks very bluntly about the anti-lynching bill recently passed by the house. He is quoted as saying that the measure "has no real backing except from a few Northern negroes who collect dues for their efforts," and makes the point that "if legislation is to be enacted, it should include gangster murders in the big cities of the North and East."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
May 18, 1937

Rights And Mob Law

[illegible]cipal opposition to the Gava[illegible]nching bill which recently [illegible]ouse of Representatives was [illegible]round that it would violate [illegible]ts.

[illegible]uld be a sound plea—it should [illegible] decisive plea—if there were any states' rights to be violated, asserted in the cases of most lynchings. Admitted, it is the right and the duty of states to deal with lynchings within their borders and to punish lynchers. But they rarely assert that right and perform that duty. Their officials either fear or sympathize with the lynchers and do nothing to bring them to justice. And the states do nothing to force their officials to perform their duty or replace them with officials who will perform it.

And lynchings are not the only things about which states' rights are dead. Observe how the governors and mayors rush to Washington surrendering states' rights and imploring the government to do for them what they fail to do for themselves.

For almost a lifetime, there has been no more earnest defender of states' rights than The Courier-Journal. But it is because it has been reluctantly forced to the conviction that, if mob law is to be abolished, it must be done by the federal authorities that it now advocates the enactment of such a substitute for states' rights as the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
May 22, 1937

BILBO TO OPEN DRIVE ON ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Senator Promises To Block Measure By Filibuster

Special to The Commercial Appeal

LOUISVILLE, Miss., May 21.—"I'll kill the anti-lynching bill in the Senate, by filibuster, if it takes six months," Senator Bilbo said here today in an address at the dedication of an American Legion state park.

Discussing the measure which passed the House several weeks ago, Senator Bilbo said "I was shocked at receiving a telegram from a students' organization at Millsaps College urging me to vote for the anti-lynching bill."

He charged that the request was an outcrop of a "Communistic organization which fostered the chapter of the American Student Union at Millsaps and now taking root in southern schools."

"I think the movement should be checked," he said. "I hate lynchings, but the bill they want me to indorse is ridiculous to a southern man."

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
May 28, 1937

THE RADICAL TENDENCIES OF YOUTH?

Students in Mississippi at some college advocated the anti-lynching bill. Senator Bilbo made some very sarcastic and disparaging remarks remarks about them and their I. Q. The result was a rather widespread rediscussion of the age old question of the radical tendencies of youth and especially those who are given a taste of the unusual doctrines and theories that get into the college course.

Students in the main are not radical although they have peculiarly direct reactions to some of the problems and theories concerning them that are advanced. They are too neophitic in their reasoning on public questions to get the right viewpoint and to properly evaluate the types of arguments that are utilized by their more learned and experienced directors.

The country needs new thought and refreshing solutions to many questions but it can do well without the too enthusiastic and often too prejudiced opinions of students, translated into riotous action. The problems of the day must be settled not alone on their future but the translation of the past into the future so as to preserve that for which we have labored and still meet the problems and trials that new conditions of the passing years create. There is much good in what we have builded. There can still be good if it is continued on the same sound scale as it has been started in this country.

Our latest political activities, both in America and elsewhere, have created a feeling that dictatorship is in the offing. The politicians have builded up a campaign against it for obvious reasons and when they are threatened with their power and control even in minor affairs they put up a dictatorship bogey man and they all bow down in reverential fear so that some people not well informed are convinced of the actuality of the danger when it is a mere political drawstring. Students are prone to follow that process if they are led astutely. If not they soon snap out of it and add to the conservatism and saneness of our citizenship.

This clipping from
Seneca, S.C. Journal
May 20. 1937

Passage of Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill Seen As Slap In Face to Loyal Democrats of The Southern States

Washington, May 20.—Southern Democrats here and who are responsible for keeping the party alive in its darkest days are still smarting under the slap in the face they received at the hands of the Administration in the recent passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

While it is generally believed that the measure will die in the Senate where other like bills have died in past years, Southern Democrats who voted against the measure almost solidly are nevertheless wrought up over the attitude of the Administration in allowing such a measure to pass purely for political expediency to satisfy Tammany Democrats and a large negro vote in Harlem and other sections of the North.

It is generally understood here that the proposal has the silent endorsement of the Administration because its author, Joseph A. Gavagan, who calls himself a Democrat, and is, of the Tammany variety, stated several days after the passage of the measure by the House that James A. Farley, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and Postmaster General, had called him early the next morning to congratulate him on his work in getting the measure through the House.

"Jim Farley called me up before nine o'clock the other morning to congratulate me," Gavagan stated here. "He told me that all of Washington was thrilled by the fine job I had done, and he was especially happy since I came from New York." It is generally assumed here that this bit of elation on the part of Farley was inspired by the thought that passage of such a bill would add all the negro votes to his candidacy for the Presidency in 1940.

The Southern Democrats and others opposed this measure were solid in their denunciation of lynching and mob crime, they contend, correctly, that it is a local problem, a problem that should be handled and is being handled by the States in the South. Figures were submitted to substantiate the fact that lynching in the South has been reduced to a negligible figure; that every year for the past thirty years the figures have been reduced. A number of Democrats from the South contended that the Federal Government has no more right to punish a mob, a county and a state for the occurrence of a lynching than they have a right to go into such large centres as New York and Chicago and prosecute rackets of a purely state nature, or to hunt down and prosecute gangsters who have committed no Federal offense.

Under the terms of the bill a county in which a lynching occurs will be liable to a fine up to $10,000 regardless of the efforts made by the officers of that county to prevent the lynching. It imposes other severe fines and punishment on law officers and individuals where the crime occurs.

When the vote on the measure was taken all Southern Democrats except Maverick of Texas, who made a speech on the floor for the bill, voted against it.

Gavagan who is the author of the measure is a Tammany Democrat and represents part of New York City in which Harlem is located. He is somewhat of a hero in Harlem at the present time because of the passage of the bill. Plans are under way to stage a monster parade and celebration there to honor him and Senator Robert F. Wagner who is expected to sponsor the bill in the Senate. The New York Enquirer of April 25 says that 50,000 are expected to take part in the celebration when it is held.

Even should the measure be passed by the Senate and get the approval of the President, there is much doubt in the minds of many if it will actually prevent lynchng. Some contend that such high-handed methods will only widen the breach between the two races. Certainly this measure and similar legislation now pending is not inclined to smooth the already troubled Democratic party waters. It is recalled by many Southern Democrats that after the election of Harding in 1920, the party in all sections of the country except in the South was deader than the Republicans after the election of Roosevelt. The South, except for the Al Smith-Hoover fiasco remained Democratic and was the nucleus about which the present Democratic party was built. As a reward for their devotion and years of struggle to put the party in the front again, they are slapped in the face with such legislation as the Gavagan bill, aimed purely at the South and designed with the intent and purpose of luring negro votes in the heavily populated sections of the East to the Democratic party.

As one member of Congress stated several days ago, "We are Democratic and always will be in the South. The Administration knows that and feels they can insult us with such legislation as the Gavagan bill and we'll still be with them. I do not believe that it will always be so."

Final Drive Is Made For Lynch Bill

Interview

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 11—The nation surely needs and must have an anti-lynch bill! Braced only by their humanistic conception of justice and unwavering courage supporters of anti-lynching legislation, struggling against frail prejudices, this week outlined the campaign that must be followed if success is to be ultimately achieved.

President Certain To Sign

It is regarded as practically certain that President Roosevelt will sign the bill in event the Senate approves it, and favorable action of the Senate depends entirely upon the efforts of those persons interested in seeing the measure become a law.

With Senator Van Nuys of Indiana as chairman of the Senate sub-committee of the judiciary committee and Senator Ashurst, Arizona, as chairman of the full committee, and both being favorable to the bill, little trouble is anticipated in having it reported to the Senate for consideration.

First Major Hurdle

This first major hurdle is looked for after the bill reaches the Senate where Majority Leader Joseph Robinson, will have much to do with the position the matter receives on the calendar, as well as when it will be considered.

Pressure may be brought to bear upon Robinson in two ways: first, by President Roosevelt who merely has to signify his interest, and the second, by other senators, and the senators will turn on the heat only after heat is turned on them by their constituents.

Filibuster Possible

Thus it has been deemed advisable that citizens throughout the country flood their respective senators with telegrams and letters requesting them to use their influence to force the measure to the floor of the Senate in case there is any attempt to sidetrack it for other legislation, and mark time until Congress adjourns. With the proper backing from an interested public the measure will surely come up for debate but upon reaching this stage it will face its worst barrier—that of the filibuster. If the bill is forced on the floor opposing senators may try to "talk it to death" as they did several years ago in dooming the Dyer anti-lynching bill.

Blocking Filibuster

There is only one way to block the filibuster and that is by means of the "closure rule," which may be invoked only after two-thirds of the Senate has voted for it. The closure rule, when adopted by the required two-thirds, stops all debate and brings the question to a vote. In view of this fact it appears that while a majority of 49 of the 96 members who compose the Senate can pass the bill if it comes to a vote, that number would be powerless to do anything in case of filibuster, therefore in order to insure favorable Senate action on the measure, sufficient agitation must be carried on to line up at least 64 senators in favor of the law. At the present time 62 senators in the favorable class: 53 definitely for the bill; six for it with reservations and three probably for the bill.

There are two less senators in the favorable class than are necessary to put over a closure rule vote but there are four to spare to win provided there is no filibuster..

Senate Marking Time

With a report of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill slightly delayed due to the long Memorial holiday week end, the Senate was still marking time on the measure, although it is freely predicted that some action will be taken this session.

It became apparent this week that Congress will be in session until after July 15, and some quarters are predicting the session will last until mid-August. The President's Supreme court bill has been withdrawn temporarily thus clearing the way for action on other legislation including the anti-lynching bill. With the court bill out of the way and with no chance of early adjournment the chances for the anti-lynching bill are regarded as improved.

It is expected that it will be favorably reported within a few days by the Senate judiciary committee, headed by Senator Henry F. Ashurst of Arizona.

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Vienna, Ga., News
April 29, 1937

...ED FOR ANTI-LYNCHING

It was unfortunate for those who ...ppose the Gavagan anti-lynching ...ill which passed the house by a sub...tantial majority, that at the very ...time when Senator Borah was say...ng that the South was curbing this ...rime, two of the most atrocious ...ynchings in the history of the coun...ry took place in Mississippi. Charg...d with the murder of a Mississippi ...erchant, and not with the crime ...gainst a white woman which was ...sed for so many years as a partial ...xcuse for mob law, two Negroes ...ere taken out and burned, while ...a howling mob looked on.

The South is duly grateful to Sen...tor Borah and other who opposed ...he Gavagan bill partly on the ...round that this section of the coun...ry was getting away from mob ...iolence, but at the same time it ...hould be set forth, to keep the rec...ord straight, that lynching is no long...r peculiar to the South and per...aps never has been. There has been ...a reduction in the number of lynch...s the country as a whole over a ...eriod of years, but New Yory city ...nd points in Illinois have instances ...f mob violence against Negroes ...his country has ever seen.

The proposed bill follows a famil...ar pattern. It asserts that any state ...r political subdivision thereof which ...ails to afford protection to any ...individual from a mob shall be con...idered to have deprived such person ...f due process of law or of equal ...protection of the law.

Section 3 declares that any officer ...hereable for such a crime to be ...uilty of a felony and subject to a ...ine not to exceed $5,000 or a prison ...erm of not more than five years.

A clause also provides a term of ...from five to 25 years for any officer ...conspiring to deliver prisoners.

Section 4 gives a federal district ...court jurisdiction in such cases ...here an officer fails to do his duty ...or where jurors are so prejudiced ...that they are not likely to punish ...mob violence.

Section 5 and 6 deal with the lia...bility of counties for failure to take ...action and provide for damage in ...federal courts.

Representative Rankin, of Miss...issippi was one of the most vigorous ...opponents of this bill and yet it was ...in his state that the latest of these ...crimes of mob violence took place.

Representative Hamilton Fish, a ...Republican, who, nevertheless, has ...generally been friendly to the South ...called attention to the burning of ...the two Negroes in Mississippi and ...said the actual test of the ability ...of the southern states to protect ...colored citizens from mob are arrest...ed and convicted. If they are, he ...said, then there is no real need for ...federal anti-lynching legislation, but ...if they are not "then even the south...ern Democrats should vote for the ...bill."

This view seems to be entirely ...sound, but in the meantime we may ...add that thus far the members of ...the mob engaged in the burning of ...the Mississippi Negroes certainly ...have not been 'arrested and con...victed".

As we have said, the usual defense ...of lynching has been that the crime ...thus summarily avenged has some...times been an attack upon woman, ...but when one of the most horrible ...instances of mob violence, with tor...ture, took place a few years ago ...near Marianna, Fla., a number of ...the leading women in the state came ...forward and urged that the good ...name of the state should be cleared ...by bringing the members of the mob ...to justice.

We have great respect for the ...high authoritity of men like Rep...resentative Wadsworth and Senator ...Borah who contend that the law ...would be unenforceable. Senator ...Borah also holds that it would be ...unconstitutional. It goes without ...saying that no good citizen should ...advocate a law that is unconstitu...tional, but as the years go by mob ...violence is not punished in the south ...or in the north, and if an anti-lynch...ing bill can be framed which will ...give the federal government power ...to intervene when and if the states ...have failed in their obvious duty ...which is almost universally the case ...where a lynching takes place, then ...such a law should go on the statute ...books.

The very civilization of the South ...demands that this blot should be ...wiped out and that mob violence ...should be purnished.—Macon Tele...graph.

Pointed Paragraphs

By DEWEY R. JONES

OUR CONGRESS

IF I had not been there and ...had not seen and heard for ...myself, I would never have ...believed it. Even reading the ...remarks and extensions in the ...Congressional Record would ...not have convinced me that ...men, in these enlightened ...years, would have the effron...tery to make the statements ...attributed to them. But, hav...ing seen and heard them, I ...know that they did make ...them.

I saw and heard for instance a ...smiling, gentle-spoken man from ...Texas, Hatton Sumners, chairman ...of the House Judiciary committee ...make a thirty-minute speech against ...anti-lynching legislation, and using ...as the basis for his arguments the ...fact that there were fewer lynch...ings in 1936 than there were in 1935 ...and 1892. He said that this reduc...tion proved that the South was ...handling the lynch question satis...factorily to the South. And he con...cluded his speech with a threat that ...if the bill is passed the South will ...show its resentment by increasing ...its lynch activities.

THEN, there was an individual ...from Mississippi named Rankin ...who dragged out the old bugaboo ...of rape and social equality as his ...reason for opposing any sort of ...anti-lynch legislation. The fact ...that two men had been murdered ...by mobs in his state during the de...bate, dampened not a bit his ardor ...for what he chose to call "State's" ...Rights." He stormed up and down ...the floor raving about "Nigras" who ...would accept the passage of this ...bill as a license to attack white ...women, and appealed to the emo...tions of his colleagues to defeat ...the bill.

And there was a gentleman from ...Georgia who declared that his love ...for black folk (as typified by the ...Mammy) knows no bounds—except ...those bounds set up by efforts to ...protect their lives. And there was ...another rabble-rouser from Ala...bama who, reaching down in his ...book of statistics, brought up the ...'facts" that there has been but ...one lynching in Alabama in ten ...years. He apparently had forgot...ten (conveniently) Snow Hill and ...Tecumseh. Three persons were ...lynched in Alabama at one time ...in 1933 and one in 1934, but this ...distinguished speaker either did not ...know of them or thought the world ...Almanac did not know of them.

Then, there was the effort to take ...from the Gavagan bill the very heart ...of it by removing certain para...graphs and sections. You would ...have been interested ot see how ...certain Congressmen changed their ...vote when they realized that they ...were being put on record. For ...instance when the first vote on the ...amendments to emasculate the bill ...was taken, the amendments won by ...overwhelming majority. But this ...was something else again when Mr. ...Gavagan of New York demanded ...a roll call. This proved to me that ...many persons did not vote for the ...bill because they were our friends ...and wanted to see lynching wiped ...out, but because they were afraid ...not to vote for it. That little thought ...ought to encourage more Negroes ...to qualify themselves to vote and ...use the ballots where they have ...them.

AND I wish to commend Con...gressman Arthur W. Mitchell of ...Chicago. It required courage for a ...man to get on the floor of the ...house and denounce the Dixie sys...tem of justice after a leading re...presentative of that form of jus...tice had just praised him, and yet ...that is what Mr. Mitchell did. Con...gressman Sumners fighting the ...lynch bill with all his might ...paused long enough to give Con...gressman Mitchell one of his left-...handed compliments. "If that gent...leman, Mitchell, keeps on in the ...way he is going, he will go down ...in history as one of the greatest ...statesmen the colored race has pro...duced," said Mr. Sumners.

I wondered what Congressman ...Mitchell would do after that. ...had not long to wait. He secured ...the floor, and in a 15-minute talk ...answered Sumners. Rankin, Tar...ver, Cox and all the others who ...claim to be our friends (as long ...as we stay in places they designate ...for us). In the few minutes that ...Mitchell talked, he proved more ...clearly than ever before, that a ...Negro in high places is the only ...person who can speak for Negroes. ...There is a difference between be...ing a humanitarian and being a self-...preservationist.

WELL, it's history now. The anti-...lynch bill passed the House ...by the staggering vote of 276 to ...119. It now goes to the Senate ...where it is freely predicted it will ...die. I don't know. I remember once ...before when the Senate was divid...ed on the issue of "who won the ...war." It was the effort to place ...upon the Supreme court bench one ...Judge John J. Parker who had stated ...that he didn't believe Negroes ...should take part in politics. Ne...groes, marshalled by Walter White ...and the Negro press, warned the ...senators that we did not want Judge ...Parker on the high court. Some ...senators took the hint and acted ...accordingly. Others thought Ne...gro voters were bluffing. They—...every blooming one of them (in ...those sections where Negroes vote) ...have since been retired from the ...senate. It can ' ' 'n, you know.

AND speak: ...ass Pressure. ...please let me presume to pre...dict that "Gone With the Wind," as ...a motion picture will make the ..."Birth of A Nation" seem like an ...Easter entertainment by compari...son. It's too bad that Negroes can...not start a movement now to keep ...that picture from being made rath...er than try to keep it from being ...shown after it is made. Mark my ...words. "Gone With the Wind," will ...stir up more race hatred through...out the country and arouse more ...contempt for Negroes than any...thing sent out in recent years. You ...can remember this when the pic...ture gets started.

Bastrop, La. Enterprise
April 29, 1937

South Is Angered by Anti-Lynching Act

SOUTHERN congressmen found ...they were no longer in the sad...dle when the house by a vote of ...276 to 119 passed the anti-lynching ...bill. The debate was furious and ...the representatives from the South ...were deeply resentful.

The bill was sponsored by Repre...sentative Joseph Gavagan of New ...York whose district includes the big ...negro city of Harlem. It provides ...that any state officer who surren...ders a prisoner to a mob shall be ...guilty of a felony and subject to ...prosecution and severe penalties. In addition, the county in which a ...lynching occurs shall be liable for ...$1,000 to $10,000 damages, to be paid ...to the family of the lynched person. ...Proponents of the measure were shocking affair a "closed incident."

Mitchell Anti-Lynch Bill Failure Laid To Weakness And Misrepresentation

Rep. Hamilton Fish Outspoken On Doomed Proposal; To Aid Gavagan

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 16—The House of Representatives and particularly the Republican members, refused to consider Representative Mitchell's antilynching bill last week because it does not represent the views and wishes of the colored people of this country.

This was the statement of Representative Hamilton Fish of New York immediately following rejection of the Mitchell bill in the House of Representatives last Wednesday.

"The Mitchell proposal," he continued "is an emasculated anti-lynching bill—a mere political gesture of camouflage—and hasn't the support of a single prominent colored newspaper in America.

"I took the occasion today to wire the editors of the six largest colored newspapers and, without exception, they favored the Gavagan bill, which will come up automatically under the rules Monday.

"Editor Robert S. Abbott, of the Chicago Defender, in the home city of Representative Mitchell, wired me to use every possible effort towards the passage of the Gavagan bill. The same request came from Carl Murphy, editor of the Afro-American of Baltimore, and from Editors C. B. Powell of the Amsterdam News and Fred R. Moore of the New York Age.

Editor Robert L. Vann of the Pittsburgh Courier wired me that 'intelligent Negroes everywhere very much prefer the Gavagan bill.'

"The colored soldiers in the World war fought to make the world safe for democracy. The time has come to put an end to mob violence and the hideous plague of lynching, which is a black stain upon the honor of our country. If certain counties and states in the South cannot and will not enforce the laws and prosecute lynchers and mob violence and protect the lives of our citizens, then the Federal government must do it.

"I intend to support the Gavagan bill when it comes up next Monday, and I believe that every Republican in Congress will do likewise."

PACE MAKES PROTEST

FROM THE DAWSON NEWS

In one of the most heated debates of the year in the House of Representatives in Washington, Congressman Stephen Pace, of the third district, protested strongly the Gavagan anti-lynch bill now before the Senate, declaring the bill is aimed at the South.

Mr. Pace pointed out, in the debate, that those who sponsor the bill know nothing about the subject involved, and accused them of catering to a limited Negro voting population in their congressional districts, on which their position depends. Citing the civil rights cases involving the Fourteenth Amendment, he proved the unconstitutionality of such a law as invasion of the recognized states rights.

The proposed bill provides that any officer, failing to protect a person in his custody from injury or death, will be guilty of a felony and punishable by $5,000 fine or five years imprisonment; and the same crime and penalty will apply to any officer conspiring to cause injury or death to such a person. This leaves the only course open to the officer to be killed in defense of his prisoner, murderer or rapist that the prisoner may be.

Furthermore, the bill provides that if within 30 days the state court has not indicted or prosecuted persons participating in a lynch mob, the U. S. district court will have jurisdiction to try and to punish those persons. The U. S. district court will have that same jurisdiction if it appears that the state officers failed, neglected or refused to apprehend, prosecute or punish the offenders, or if it appears that the jurors in the state court are so opposed to punishment in the case that probably they will not punish the guilty persons. The U. S. district court judge may order the trial held any place in his district which he may designate. All this is an indictment, direct or indirect, of the courts and jurors of the state in which the crime is committed.

The bill also provides that the county or counties in which the seizure and putting to death takes place will be liable to the injured person or to his estate for between $2,000 and $10,000 as damages, which sum may be recovered by the United States district court. This is a suitable example of the unfairness in which the law-abiding citizens of a county will be taxed possibly $10,000 for the actions of a small group of irresponsible or enraged persons seeking to punish some rapist or murderer, if the bill is passed.

It is inconceivable in the minds of a just people that innocent persons should be compelled to pay $10,000 to the widow of a murderer or rapist. Even President Roosevelt can dismiss his secret service guard on visits to Georgia, and ride wherever he pleases without fear of harm, so well does he know the South. But the logical effect of this bill, if passed, would be to give would-be rapists and murderers the belief that the national government is protecting them, and thus tend to increase the number of such crimes. As a result, more instead of fewer lynchings might be the outcome, and the very purpose of the bill be defeated. In other words, instead of alleviating the acknowledged evil of lynching, this bill would tend to aggravate it.

Slap In Passage Of Gavagan's Bill Angers Dixie's Democrats

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib. May 18, 1937

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Southern Democrats here who have always been Democrats and who are responsible for keeping the party alive in its darkest days are still smarting under the slap in the face they received at the hands of the administration in the recent passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

While it is generally believed that the measure will die in the senate where other bills like it have died in past years, southern Democrats who voted against the measure almost solidly are nevertheless wrought up over the attitude of the administration in allowing such a measure to pass for political expediency to satisfy Tammany Democrats and a large negro vote in Harlem and other sections of the North.

It is generally understood here that the proposal has the silent endorsement of the administration because its author, Joseph A. Gavagan, who calls himself a Democrat, and is, of the Tammany variety, stated several days after the passage of the measure by the house that James A. Farley, chairman of the Democratic national committee and postmaster general, had called him early the next morning to congratulate him on his work in getting the measure through the house.

MAY HELP FARLEY

"Jim Farley called me up before 9 o'clock the other morning to congratulate me," Gavagan stated here. "He told me that all of Washington was thrilled by the fine job had done, and he was especially happy since I came from New York." It is generally assumed here that this bit of elation on the part of Farley was inspired by the thought that passage of such a bill would add all the negro votes to his candidacy for the presidency in 1940.

While Southern Democrats and others who opposed this measure were solid in their denunciation of lynching and mob crime, they contend that it is a local problem, a problem that should be handled and is being handled by the states in the South. Figures were submitted to substantiate the fact that lynching in the South has been reduced to a negligible figure; that every year for the past 30 years the figures have been reduced. A number of Democrats from the South contended that the federal government has no more right to punish a mob a county and a state for the occurence of a lynching than they have a right to go into such large centers as New York and Chicago and prosecute rackets of a purely state nature, or to hunt down and prosecute gangsters who have committed no federal offense.

WOULD FINE COUNTIES

Under the terms of the bill a county in which a lynching occurs will be liable to a fine up to $10,000 regardless of the efforts made by the officers of that county to prevent the lynching. It imposes other severe fines and punishment on law officers and individuals where the crime occurs.

When the vote on the measure was taken all Southern Democrats except Maverick of Texas, who made a speech on the floor for the bill, voted against it.

Gavagan, who is the author of the measure, is a Tammany Democrat and represents part of New York City in which Harlem is located. He is somewhat of a hero in Harlem at the present time because of the passage of the bill. Plans are under way to stage a monster parade and celebration there to honor him and Senator Robert F. Wagner, who is expected to sponsor the bill in the senate. The New York Enquirer of April 25 says that 50,000 are expected to take part in the celebration when it is held.

MAY WIDEN BREACH

Even should the measure be passed by the senate and get the approval of the president, there is much doubt in the minds of many if it will actually prevent lynching. Some contend that such high-handed methods will only widen the breach between the two races. Certainly this measure and similar legislation now pending is not inclined to smooth the already troubled Democratic party waters. It is recalled by many Southern Democrats that after the election of Harding in 1920, the party in all sections of the country except in the South was deader than the Republicans after the election of Roosevelt. The South, except for the Al Smith-Hoover fiasco, remained Democratic and was the nucleus about which the present Democratic party was built. As a reward for their devotion and years of struggle to put the party in the front again, they are slapped in the face with such legislation as the Gavagan bill, aimed purely at the South and designed with the intent and purpose of luring negro votes in the heavily populated sections of the East to the Democratic party.

As one member of congress stated several days ago, "We are Democrats and always will be in the South. The administration knows that and feels they can insult us with such legislation as the Gavagan bill and we'll still be with them. I do not believe that it will always be so."

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Savannah, Ga., Press
January 7, 1937

MRS. O'DAY JOINS BODY FOR ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Two Former Savannahians Now in Congress in Favor of Proposed Act.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Leaders in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who held a meeting Monday night at their headquarters on Fifth avenue, announced the election of several new members. Among those elected was Caroline O'Day, representative in the lower House of Congress from the state at large. Mrs. O'Day is a Southern woman and a former resident of Savannah, but she is much interested in the work the organization is doing.

The association again went on record as urging the national Congress to pass the federal anti-lynching law. It is expected this measure will come up for consideration at the present Congress. James Hamilton Lewis, Democratic senator from Illinois, and a former resident of Savannah, supported this measure in the Senate last year. It is expected he will do so again. Senator George and other Democrats conducted a successful fight against the proposed law at the last session.

While the President has not expressed himself on the anti-lynching act, it is believed he is in favor of its passage. Those behind the movement say sixty-two senators are prepared to vote for it.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 10, 1937

Sixth annual conference of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching will be held here Wednesday and Thursday, it was announced last night by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the group.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
January 10, 1937

Lynching Opponents In Southern States To Meet in Atlanta

Anti-lynching activities in thirteen southern states will be studied at the sixth annual conference of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, to be held Wednesday and Thursday at the Piedmont Hotel.

The association, which was organized here in 1930, claims a constituency of 35,000 southern women who have signed a repudiation of lynching for any cause, and a pledge to work to wipe out the crime.

Mrs. Attwood Martin, of Louisville, will preside at the conference. Speakers will include Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, who is executive director of the association; Dr. Arthur Raper, of Agnes Scott College, and thirteen state chairmen.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
January 12, 1937

Anti-Lynching Group To Meet Wednesday

ATLANTA, Jan. 11. (AP)—The Georgia program of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is expected to be given special consideration at the convention of the organization here Wednesday and Thursday.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association, said Georgia would be given special consideration because "Georgia had six of the nine lynchings in the United States last year."

Dr. S. M. Bristol, of the University of Florida, and Dr. Arthur Raper, of Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Ga., will be among the principal speakers Thursday. Dr. Bristol will discuss "Changing Social Attitude."

Bill To Make Lynching Federal Crime Wins Huge Majority North and South

By Institute of Public Opinion.

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—Should congress enact a law which would [illegible] make lynching a federal crime?

This proposition, embodied in a bill before congress last year, has [illegible] just been submitted to a cross-section of American voters by the Institute of Public Opinion. It received a thumping vote of approval—even [illegible] in the south.

Seven out of every 10, or 70 per cent, of those who expressed an opinion, in principle, favor federal anti-lynching legislation on the subject of lynching. There is a further evidence of the growing faith of public opinion in the law-enforcement powers of the federal government.

But the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill stirred up much opposition in congress last year, and the opposition was not confined to southern statesmen. Senator Borah, of Idaho, has opposed it on constitutional grounds. The proponents of the measure feared their case on the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution which provides that no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, or deny to any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws.

Provisions of Federal Bill.

Briefly, the bill provided (1) local officers of a state or municipality convicted in federal court of failing to protect a prisoner from a mob would be fined $5,000 or given five years imprisonment, or both; (2) if they conspired with the mob they would be liable to imprisonment of from five to 25 years, and (3) county governments involved would have to pay $2,000 to $10,000 indemnity to the injured persons, or to the estate of the slain. The bill defined a "mob" as any gathering of more than three persons.

Senator Smith, of South Carolina, and Senator Bailey, of North Carolina, led the opposition to the measure. Senator Bailey declared the Wagner-Costigan measure would "destroy the last vestige of state sovereignty" and "practically wipe out the states as governmental entities." Senator Smith declared the measure would "destroy free government."

Pacific Coast Voters Most Opposed.

It is interesting to note that in the Pacific coast states, where lynching is almost unknown, there is the greatest opposition to a federal anti-lynching law. Possibly one reason for this is that the lynchings in the southern states have been widespread in the indictment of the whole south. Southerners were only too glad to see federal action as compared to a national average of only 30 per cent. There may be several explanations for this. Possibly one is that the Pacific coast citizens do not feel that lynching would be an appropriate punishment for the murderer.

Are Local Officers Efficient?

A cool-headed analysis of lynching statistics shows that the number of lynchings has steadily declined during the last generation. As compared to 130 lynchings in 1901, there were 28 in 1922 and 20 in 1935, according to figures compiled for the World Almanac.

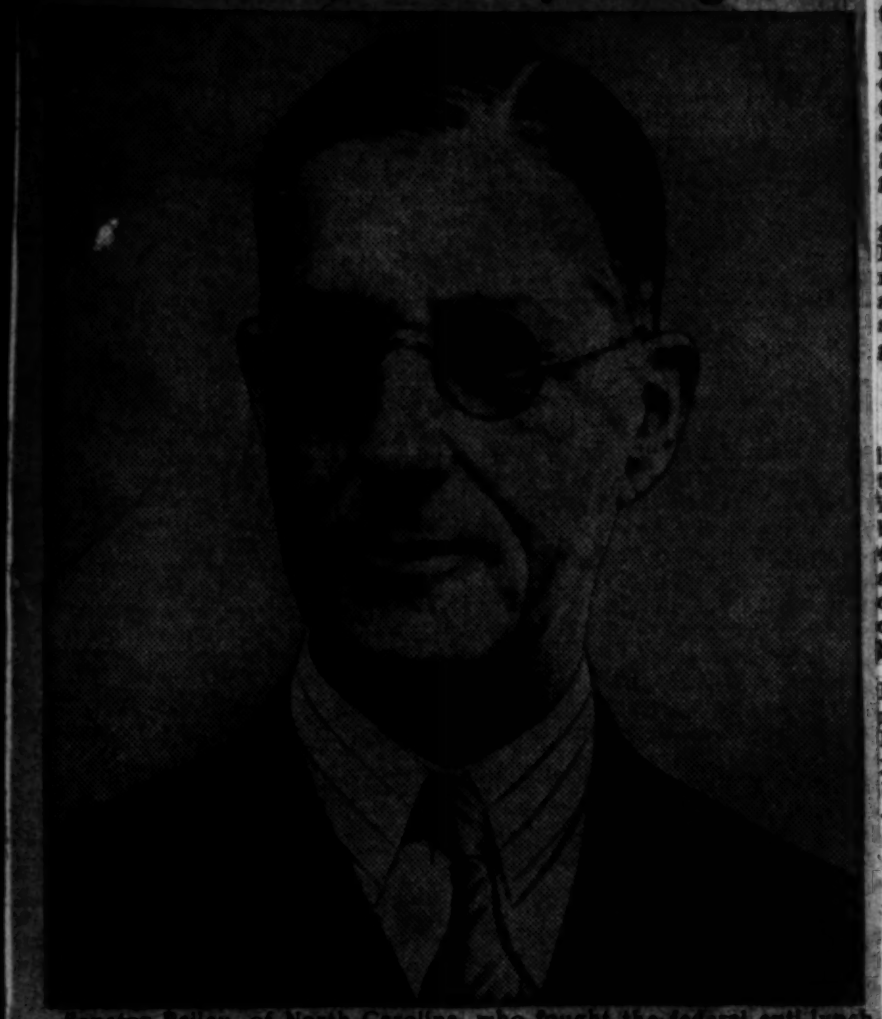
That the public wants the federal government to take a hand in the lynching problem implies a lack of faith in the efficiency of local officers. But observers point out that in instances in which officers have stopped lynchings, according to the World Almanac, they have often been [illegible]

Lynchings Found Declining

According to the World Almanac, 4,951 persons were lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1935. The following table shows a steady decline in the number of lynchings since 1900.

Lynchings in the United States Since 1900.	
1900	115
1901	130
1902	92
1903	80
1904	83
1905	62
1906	65
1907	60
1908	91
1909	82
1910	76
1911	67
1912	63
1913	52
1914	47
1915	73
1916	54
1917	36
1918	64
1919	80
1920	60
1921	62
1922	57
1923	33
1924	16
1925	17
1926	30
1927	19
1928	10
1929	11
1930	10
1931	21
1932	12
1933	28
1934	15
1935	20

Opposes Federal Lynching Bill



Senator Bailey, of North Carolina, who fought the federal anti-lynching bill in congress last year. Said he: "What power has the federal government over a sheriff in North Carolina?"

South, Like Rest of Nation, Wants Anti-Lynch Law, Poll Figures Show

NEW YORK, Jan. 30.—Should Congress enact a law which would make lynching a federal crime?

This proposition, embodied in a bill before Congress last year, has just been submitted to a cross-section of American voters by the Institute of Public Opinion. It received a thumping vote of approval—even in the south.

Seven out of every ten, or 70 per cent, of those who expressed an opinion were in favor of a federal anti-lynching law. Southerners were only slightly less in favor of the measure—65 per cent.

That the survey found so many voters who, in principle, favor federal legislation on the subject of lynching is a further evidence of the growing faith of public opinion in the law-enforcement powers of the federal government.

But the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching bill stirred up much opposition in Congress last year, and the opposition was not confined to southern statesmen. Senator Borah of Idaho opposed it on constitutional grounds.

The proponents of the measure based their case on the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which provides that no state "shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws."

Provisions of Federal Bill

Briefly, the bill provided (1) local officers of a state or municipality convicted in federal court of failing to protect a prisoner from a mob would be fined $5,000 or given five years' imprisonment, or both; (2) if they conspired with the mob they would be liable to imprisonment of from five to 25 years; and (3) county governments involved would have to pay $2,000 to $10,000 indemnity to the injured persons or to the estate of the lynched. The bill defined a "mob" as any gathering of more than three persons.

Senator Smith of South Carolina and Senator Bailey of North Carolina led the opposition to the Wagner-Costigan measure. Senator Bailey, pitching his argument on constitutional grounds, declared:

"What power has the federal government over a sheriff in North Carolina? The sheriff is responsible to North Carolina, and when you destroy that responsibility you destroy free government."

Pacific Coast Voters Most Opposed

It is interesting to note that in today's survey the opposition to a federal anti-lynching law is strongest not in the south, but on the Pacific Coast. There 41 per cent of the voters reached are against federal action, as compared to a national average of only 30 per cent. There may be several explanations for this.

Possibly one is that when the murderers of Brooke Hart were lynched in California a few years ago, no less a personage than California's governor, James Rolph, said publicly that at times lynching was a deserved punishment.

Furthermore, today's survey was being conducted at the time the body of Charles Mattson was found near Everett, Wash. The ghastliness of this crime is said to have caused many Pacific coast citizens to declare privately that lynching would be an appropriate punishment for the murderer.

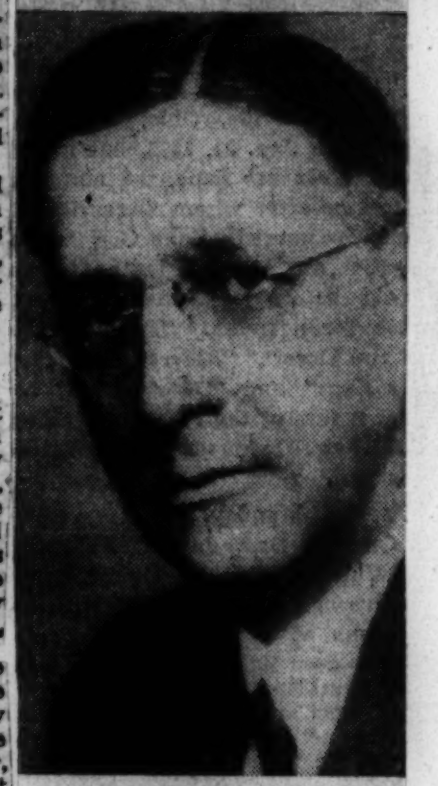
Summary Of Survey Vote

The following table, showing the vote by sections and groups, indicates how widespread is the indorsement of a federal anti-lynching law.

Should Congress enact a law which would make lynching a federal crime?

	Yes	No
Nation	70%	30%
New England	75	25
Middle Atlantic	72	28
East Central	77	23
West Central	70	30
South	65	35
Mountain	65	35
Pacific coast	59	41
Groups:		
Women	75%	25%
Young persons	77	23
Reliefers	72	28
Farmers	69	31
Small towns	75	25
Urban	70	30

Opposes Lynch Law



Senator Bailey of North Carolina, who fought the federal anti-lynching bill in Congress, said: "What power has the federal government over a sheriff in North Carolina?"

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
February 18, 1937

To Prevent Lynching

One advance, one only, in the law relating to lynchers would be effected by the so-called Wagner bill whereby the trial of alleged lynchers and law officers failing in their duty to protect prisoners would be transferred from state to federal courts.

The juries would be drawn from much broader districts. Were a lynching to occur in Charleston county, and the accused lynchers to come up for trial in the federal district instead of the state court, the jury would be drawn from twenty-three or twenty-four counties. The prosecution could object to service on the jury of citizens of Charleston or localities near the scene of the crime.

Thus the jury would be free of bias favorable to the defendants, as often it is not when it is composed of neighbors living in fifteen or twenty-five miles of them.

The principle had illustration while the Volstead act was in force. Persons accused of bootlegging or moonshining were not often convicted in the circuit court in Charleston but many of them were "sent up" by the federal court. Most of the federal jurymen came from counties in which public opinion was not antagonistic to the law.

The Wagner act does not provide that an accused lyncher in South Carolina can be taken to Ohio or Pennsylvania for trial. He would be tried in one of the two federal districts in this state.

The general assembly may, if it wish, enact a law that would effect the purpose of the Wagner act. This state law would simply provide for change of venue in all lynching trials. Were the lynching an affair in Greenville, the accused could be taken for trial to some county a hundred miles distant and the jury drawn from a special panel composed of men from twenty or all of the counties of the state.

A hundred years ago the distances across a county were in time, inconvenience, and cost of travel much greater than they are now across half the state. From Lancaster to Abbeville, for example, is now about three hours, but formerly it was about three hours from a point in Lancaster county to Lancaster court house ten miles away.

The suppression of crime would be assisted by state laws providing for the drawing of juries from wide districts for trials not only of lynchers but of other grave offenders. In this age of swift travel and instantaneous communication is no reason for the composition of any jury of persons subject to local biases and prejudices.

If, for example, a man of prominence and influence load himself with whiskey and drive his automobile recklessly over an innocent person, it would be far more difficult to convict him of manslaughter in his own county than in another part of the state.

The Wagner bill, in The News and Courier's opinion, has not for its principal design the prevention of lynching. We think it will incite to lynching in the South. The bill is part of a plan to take away government from the states and add to the federal powers. It has a second motive, namely to please the negro voters in the great cities of the North and further attach them to the Democratic party organization.

The Southern congressmen will have all that they can stand up to in defeating the bill. One cannot be sure that another filibuster would prevent its passage. It is certain that it will be pressed more vigorously by the Northern Democrats than it was two years ago and the signs are that it will receive more of quiet encouragement from the White House and some of the members of the cabinet.

The general assemblies of South Carolina and other Southern states can assist their members of congress in the defeat of the Wagner bill by enacting additional legislation to put an end to lynching.

We wish that our general assembly would recognize the facts of destruction of distance by the improvements of transportation and communication and enact laws that would almost wholly eliminate [illegible] feeling among jurymen in the trials of criminal cases.

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Asheville, N. C., Citizen
April 20, 1937

HEADED FOR PASSAGE

That Congress will pass an anti-lynching law at this session of Congress seems now to be more than likely. The Gavagan bill which passed the house last week will be challenged in the senate; but its passage, or that of some similar measure, can be defeated only if opposition senators conduct, as in the past, a filibuster that will prevent the proposal from coming to a vote. It is possible that this will be done, but the odds are the other way.

Several things have happened to increase on the one hand the pressure for anti-lynching legislation and to reduce on the other hand the resistance to such legislation. The negro vote has become important in a number of northern states and congressmen from those states, Democrats as well as Republicans, think it good politics to assert themselves aggressively in favor of a Federal anti-lynching law. Southern congressmen who are opposed to such a law are in the awkward predicament, many of them, of having voted and worked for other measures which constitute just as much an invasion of the rights of the states as federal action in the matter of lynching.

Nor is this the whole story. It is an interesting and significant fact that whereas formerly southern sentiment was virtually unanimous in its opposition to a federal anti-lynch law, now influential southerners, and a number of influential southern newspapers, are either supporting such legislation or else not opposing it.

There are, we think, two underlying reasons for this change. One reason is compounded of the weariness of those southerners who have been engaged for many years in the execration of mob murder and the battle to end it plus the impatience of the newer generation that has come on the scene without possessing, in many instances, any marked understanding of the history of their own region. The other and more important reason goes deeper.

To some it seemed contradictory a decade and a half ago that the southern press, militant in its denunciation of lynching, should be equally militant in its opposition to the suggestion of federal assistance in stamping it out. There was no contradiction in fact. The Southern press believed then, as The Citizen believes now, that the lynching evil could be combatted successfully only by building up sentiment against it. The record tells the story of the strides that have been made in this direction. They have been notable and continuous.

Further, and this is vital, the fear existed that the assertion by the Federal government of its authority to exercise police powers within a state for the suppression of an undoubted evil, one for which there can be neither sympathy nor defence, would be followed or at least might be followed by the exercise of such powers in other ways which the South was not prepared to tolerate and which we do not think that it is yet prepared to tolerate.

This fear still actuates southern congressmen, apparently, but does not seem to weigh as heavily upon many southerners as formerly. The strange thing about this is that there may be more practical reasons for entertaining such fear than existed a generation or so ago.

However that may be, it is plain that the combination of circumstances to which we have referred has brought congress close to the point of enacting legislation empowering the Federal government to assume the responsibility for the ending of lynchings in the United States. There is serious danger, in our judgment, that such action by congress may have harmful and perhaps exceedingly vicious effects, but the tide, nevertheless, has set.

It would be difficult at best to overcome the political forces that are now active for a Federal anti-lynch law. It will be almost a miracle if this is done in view of the fact that the South itself has ceased to be either cohesive or coherent in its attitude toward federal government and is today, for the purposes of this discussion at least, a section without a party.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
April 23, 1937

Need for Anti-Lynching Bill

It was unfortunate for those who oppose the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which has passed the House by a substantial majority, that at the very time when Senator Borah was saying that the South was curbing this crime, two of the most atrocious lynchings in the history of the country took place in Mississippi. Charged with the murder of a Mississippi merchant, and not with the crime against a white woman which was used for so many years as a partial excuse for mob law, two Negroes were taken out and burned, while a howling mob of 400 persons looked on.

The South is duly grateful to Senator Borah and others who opposed the Gavagan bill partly on the ground that this section of the country was getting away from mob violence, but at the same time it should be set forth, to keep the record straight, that lynching is no longer peculiar to the South and perhaps never has been. There has been a reduction in the number of lynchings in the country as a whole over a period of years, but New York city and points in Illinois have furnished some of the most inhuman instances of mob violence against Negroes this country has ever seen.

The proposed bill follows a familiar pattern. It asserts that any state or political subdivision thereof which fails to afford protection to any individual from a mob shall be considered to have deprived such person of due process of law or of equal protection of the laws.

Section 3 declares that any officer blameable for such a crime to be guilty of a felony and subject to a fine not to exceed $5,000 or a prison term of not more than five years.

A clause also provides a term of from five to 25 years for any officer conspiring to deliver prisoners.

Section 4 gives a federal district court jurisdiction in such cases where an officer fails to do his duty or where jurors are so prejudiced that they are not likely to punish mob violence.

Sections 5 and 6 deal with the liability of counties for failure to take action and provide for damages in federal courts.

Representative Rankin, of Mississippi, was one of the most vigorous opponents of this bill and yet it was in his state that the latest of these crimes of mob violence took place.

Representative Hamilton Fish, a Republican, who, nevertheless, has generally been friendly to the South, called attention to the burning of the two Negroes in Mississippi and said the actual test of the ability of the southern states to protect colored citizens from violence is whether the members of the mob are arrested and convicted. If they are, he said, then there is no real need for federal anti-lynching legislation, but if they are not "then even the southern Democrats should vote for the bill."

This view seems to be entirely sound, but in the meantime we may add that thus far the members of the mob engaged in the burning of the Mississippi Negroes certainly have not been "arrested and convicted", and there is little likelihood that they will be.

As we have said, the usual defense of lynching has been that the crime thus summarily avenged has sometimes been an attack upon women, but when one of the most horrible instances of mob violence, with torture, took place a few years ago near Marianna, Fla., a number of the leading women in the state came forward and urged that the good name of the state should be cleared by bringing the members of the mob to justice.

We have great respect for the high authority of men like Representative Wadsworth and Senator Borah who contend that the law would be unenforceable. Senator Borah also holds that it would be unconstitutional. It goes without saying that no good citizen should advocate a law that is unconstitutional, but as the years go by mob violence is not punished in the South or in the North, and if an anti-lynching bill can be framed which will give the federal government power to intervene when and if the states have failed in their obvious duty, which is almost universally the case where a lynching takes place, then such a law should go on the statute books.

The very civilization of the South demands that this blot should be wiped out and that mob violence should be punished.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 17, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill Challenges The South

There is one sure way by which the South may avert all federal interference in lynching prosecutions under the Gavagan bill which has already passed the House and which stands a good chance of becoming law. And that way lies through enforcement of present state laws or perhaps stronger state laws.

For the bill provides—and this is a point not stressed as it should be—that the federal courts will not take action against any persons accused of lynching until there is strong reason to believe that the state administration of the law has broken down. As long as local authorities are alert to enforcement of the state laws against lynching, the federal government, under the bill, has no power to step in.

Section 4 of the Gavagan bill reads as follows:

The district court of the United States judicial district wherein the person is injured or put to death by a mob or riotous assemblage shall have jurisdiction to try and punish, in accordance with the laws of the state where the injury is inflicted or the homicide committed, any and all persons who participate therein: *Provided*, That it is first made to appear to such court (1) that the officers of the state charged with the duty of apprehending, prosecuting, and punishing such offenders under the laws of the state shall have failed, neglected, or refused to apprehend, prosecute, or punish such offenders, or (2) that the jurors obtainable for service in the state court having jurisdiction of such offense are so strongly opposed to such punishment that there is probability that those guilty of the offense will not be punished in such state court. A failure for more than 30 days after the commission of such an offense to apprehend or to indict the person guilty thereof, or a failure diligently to prosecute such persons, shall be sufficient to constitute prima-facie evidence of the failure, neglect, or refusal described in the above proviso.

This provision challenges the South to handle the menace of lynching in a manner that will not bring down upon the South what many regard as the disgrace and the questionable procedure of having the federal courts intervene. Whether or not federal intervention becomes necessary will be determined by how the South enforces its own state laws.

This newspaper is in that group of Southerners who believe that lynching presents peculiar problems that can best be solved by [illegible] inclined toward the South. It believes that progress is being made toward solution of the lynching problem, and that the slowness with which the solution is being reached hardly justifies federal legislation.

But even with these beliefs, *The News* is not unduly alarmed over prospect of passage of the Gavagan bill, in view of the fact that it specifically guards against federal action until it appears that state and local administrations have broken down.

There may be some who will fear that the federal courts will be too quick to intervene. Let it be remembered, however, that the federal district courts in the South are all manned by Southerners. A Southern judge is not likely to be hasty in bringing federal force to bear against his own people. Not until he is convinced that Southern officials and Southern juries are lying down on the job will he act.

In the light of this provision, the Gavagan bill, if it becomes law, will be only a club over the heads of Southerners. We may not like the presence of the club there, it may not be a wise thing for the club to hang there, but if it ever descends it will be because we have failed to enforce the law ourselves.

Birmingham, Ala. News
April 16, 1937

The House Passes The Anti-Lynching Bill

There cannot be the shadow of a doubt that the action of the House yesterday in passing the Gavagan anti-lynching bill was prompted by the two peculiarly atrocious lynchings in Mississippi Tuesday. The damnable, fiendish crime committed by the Mississippi mob in torturing two Negroes to death with blow torches so outraged the sensibilities of congressmen that they voted, 276 to 119, far more than two to one, to make lynching a federal offense.

Not only did they pass the bill making lynching a federal crime; they wrote into it the indemnity provision against which many Southern members of Congress have protested most strongly. The bill provides that a county in which a prisoner is seized or put to death shall pay damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000 to the victim's family.

It is a matter of conjecture whether an anti-lynching bill would have been passed at this session of Congress if it had not been for this affront to American civilization in Mississippi. Such a bill might have been passed before the end of the session in any case, though it is doubtful. So drastic a bill would hardly have been approved by the House, however, had it not been for this outrage in Mississippi.

Many of us in the South, including this newspaper, have thought that it would be better to leave this problem in the hands of the states. But we have warned repeatedly that the acts of mob violence in the South and the failure to track down and punish lynchers would inevitably force Congress to act. Now that prediction has been fulfilled at least so far as the House of Representatives is concerned. The bill, of course, is not yet law, and it may not become law. What the Senate will do with it remains to be seen. But unquestionably many senators who have heretofore refrained from approving federal action against lynching will be moved by this Mississippi atrocity much as members of the House were, whether or not that feeling will produce a majority for the bill in the Senate.

The continuance of lynchings year after year and the repeated failures to bring lynchers to justice have aroused public opinion all over the country in favor of federal action. A poll conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion not long ago showed that public sentiment in the South, as well as in other sections, favored a federal anti-lynching law.

The pity of it is that this sentiment has been brought about by the inability or the unwillingness of law enforcement officers and grand juries to arrest and indict members of mobs. If the states had proved that they could cope with lynching, practically everybody would have preferred leaving the problem to the states. But the states have failed woefully. That is the only reason that we find a majority of public opinion favoring a federal statute today.

It would still be better to leave this matter to the states if they showed the ability and willingness to deal with it adequately. The best thing that could be done now to prevent the Senate from following the lead of the House on the Gavagan bill would be for the Mississippi authorities to search out the members of last Tuesday's mob and punish them.

Anniston, Ala. Star
April 14, 1937

Hobbs Again To The Front

Congressman Sam Hobbs of the Fourth Alabama District was paid another outstanding compliment by his colleagues in the House yesterday when he was selected to make the only speech in opposition to the Gavagan anti-lynching bill which would be particularly obnoxious and unjust to the South. In this connection it has been pointed out that this is the second time recently that the Fourth District Representative has been thus honored.

It will be recalled that Hobbs was selected by the House to conduct the investigation of charges brought against Judge Ritter of Florida—an inquiry that resulted in the impeachment of the judge for misconduct in office and brought praise to the Alabama Congressman for his part in bringing out the damaging evidence in the case.

And in his speech yesterday against the anti-lynching measure, Congressman Hobbs acquitted himself with equal distinction and added further to his already enviable record in the House. In opposing the bill, he stressed the point that the only remedy for the lynching evil lies in enlightenment of the people and in creating sentiment against the crime of mob murder. He also emphasized the fact that the South is making progress toward the solution of the problem and cited figures to show the decrease in lynchings in the last half century.

Development of public opinion in the Southern states against lynching should be more rapid in the next few years with the growth in educational facilities. But it is necessary that Negroes as well as whites be provided the opportunity to obtain an education and be thereby raised to a higher standard, which will tend to deter them from the crimes that have caused mob action in the past. Records show lynchings have occurred more often in communities in which a low average in intelligence and learning prevails, proving that a more wholesome attitude on the part of the citizens is the thing most needed to combat the mob spirit. They likewise attest the fact that education for Negroes has a direct and important effect on the amount of crime. For example, it is said that no graduate of Tuskegee Institute has ever been convicted of a crime and equally impressive results have been shown by other schools for colored students in the South.

Therefore, the federal government really can aid materially in eliminating lynchings by contributing to the education of both white and colored in the Southern states. Federal funds for the schools in the South will enable us to make greater progress toward the development of an enlightened citizenship that is of such vital necessity in keeping us clear of racial troubles that have resulted in disgraceful acts of lawlessness in the past.

Northern Congressmen who are seeking to force the anti-lynching measure on the South should use their influence in behalf of the Harrison-Fletcher-Black bill to provide aid for the states in the public school systems. By turning their attention from an unjust measure to this praiseworthy proposal, or some other plan of similar merit, they could perform a service to the South that would count and do something constructive in the way of advancing the cause in which they profess to have such a keen interest.

Lynchings—1937
Legislation Relating to.

5714

Anti-Lynching Legislation And The Bill Of Rights

San Antonio Express, April 17, 1937
(Biggest white paper in South Central Texas)

That a strong, genuinely enforced federal anti-lynching law is need to root out an evil which has shamed the nation for two generations past, has been long evident to intelligent citizens both in the North and in the South.

The recent atrocity in Mississippi—an exhibition of mob cruelty at its worst—undoubtedly influenced the House's vote (277 to 119) for the Gavagan Bill. Should the Senate concur—as appears likely—the effect would be to throw the federal government's weight into the scales against a social condition which persistently has defied state authority.

As the mob—like the underworld gang—has a healthy respect for the "G-men," the very existence of such a federal law would suffice to prevent at least some lynchings. That is a sufficient reason for completing this legislation.

It is high time Congress acted. This measure, in essentially the form which the House approved—as the Dyer Bill, and later as the Wagner-Costigan Bill — has been before Congress since 1918. During that period 515 persons have been lynched, but except in a single Georgia case (when the victim was a white man) not one mob-murderer has been tried and punished as befitted the crime.

Though state and local authorities have received ample warning — through the growing favor which the proposed federal legislation has commanded in Congress and among citizens generally—they have consistently refused to heed the lesson.

In its latest survey of the record ("Can the States Stop Lynching?") the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reviews the 39 outrages in 12 states during 1935 and 1936. After each it enters with monotonous regularity the notation, "State action—none."

Unless all precedents shall be upset, when the official record of Mississippi's double lynching—revolting as it was—shall be complete it may be summed up in the same words, "State action—none." For—shocked and stirred as they must be—Governor, trial judge, district attorney and sheriff probably dare not bring the perpetrators to justice, even if they could be identified, which is exceedingly difficult. To follow the dictates of duty under their official oaths in such circumstances (as Texas citizens can perceive) doubtless would be to commite political suicide.

The very existence of that evil condition affords all the justification need for federal intervention. For that reason the injection of partisan or sectional issues into the debate on the Gavagan Bill is deeply regrettable.

Fundamental human rights are at stake; the vindication of law and the most elemental principles of justice is involved.

Lynching is murder: the mob tramples the Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the national Constitution; it denies the accused person's right to "due process" and trial by jury.

However, the House debate on constitutional grounds was more pertinent. Recalling a court decision on a similar Virginia law a few years ago, the proviso to penalize the county is open to question. The pending bill would be more likely to stand up in court—and certainly more practically useful—should the Senate eliminate that section and add a proviso (modeled after the Lindbergh Anti-Kidnapping Law) giving the federal authorities jurisdiction over mob crimes if local and state authorities failed to act immediately.

The effect would be to put the G-men on the lynchers' trail.

DIXIE AGHAST AS MEASURE GOES THROUGH

See Stiff Battle When Bill Reaches The U. S. Senate

Editor Wires President

On Wednesday, April 22, the day before the House of Representatives passed the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill, Robert S. Abbott sent the following telegram to President Franklin D. Roosevelt:

Your Excellency
The President
Washington, D.C.

Blow torch lynchings in Mississippi yesterday call for every ounce of influence in support of the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill now before the House. On behalf of fifteen million colored citizens, members of which group are largely the victims of lynch mobs, The Chicago Defender prays your powerful aid in passing this legislation designed to blot out such heinous crimes against law, order, society and our general welfare.

ROBERT S. ABBOTT,
Editor and Publisher.

Some other facts on anti-lynching bill on pages 4 and 16.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 23—(Special)—Spurred to action by the brutal mob-murder of two men and the flogging of a third in uncivilized Mississippi Tuesday afternoon, the House of Representatives here late Thursday passed th Gavagan anti-lynching law by the impressive vote of 276 to 117, splitting party lines asunder.

Enactment of the bill climaxed one of the stormiest sessions of the 75th Congress and was marked by impassioned pleas of sectionalism and race prejudice.

Introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Gavagan of New York, and ably supported by Congressmen Arthur W. Mitchell and Raymond S. McKeough of Illinois, and Rep. Hamilton Fish of New York, the bill hurdled numerous attempts to kill or emasculate it and was placed on the record to become the sec-

(Continued From Page 1)

ond anti-lynch bill ever to pass that body, the Dyer anti-lynching bill having been passed by the house 15 years ago, only to be crushed in the senate.

The measure will be taken up in the Senate immediately and lest it suffer the fate of the Dyer bill proponents of the measure plan to urge Pres. Roosevelt to put his mighty MUSCLE behind the bill to assure its passage in the upper house. Ask him by wire today!

In the face of the brutal double lynching in Mississippi there is still bitter opposition to the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, and there is yet a likelihood that it may be defeated unless strong pressure is put on the Senate. Only the President is able to wield this influence with sufficient telling effect to turn the trick.

On Capitol Hill it is being freely argued that the President has gone to congress for more than the bill which he personally feels is good for the welfare of the country. When he hasn't gone in person he has sent his emissaries.

Those men of the Race who have boasted of their closeness to the President, those who are known to have the chief's ear, right now ought to be doing some constant whispering urging him to take action in the matter. Now that the nation is stirred over the recent Mississippi tragedies, it may not be difficult to touch the heart of the great humanitarian. He should be wired today.

It is pointed out that Mr. Roosevelt has not only taken his cases to Congress, but he has taken them to the people. He pleaded with his constituents please to understand his position in his court enlarging plan, and he has indeed, won favors. All opposition has wilted steadily under the spell of his strong will, magnetic charm, and fascinating personality. He can do wonders for the anti-lynching bill, if he will, and because of his tremendous popularity and influence over Congress, the fate of the measure can be debited or credited up to him. He can maneuver its passage, he can stand idly by and let it suffer and die, or he can block it altogether. What will he do? Wire him today!

While efforts are being made to get the President to show his hand, supporters of the bill in the Senate are busy rounding up members in a drive to obtain hasty favorable action by that body.

The House convened at 12 noon, and after the usual procedure incident to the opening, Mr. Gavagan, sponsor of the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill, said: "Mr. Speaker, I move that the house resolves itself into the committee of the whole house on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill H. R. 1507, to assure to persons within the jurisdiction of every state the equal protection of the laws and to punish the crime of lynching." The motion was agreed to and accordingly the House resolved itself into the committee of the whole house on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill H. R. 1507, with Mr. O'Connor of New York in the chair.

Some indication had been given of a filibuster against the passage of the bill by southerners who opposed the bill almost solidly, but the hope of the southern members of the House was weakened when a telegram was received in the House with news of the Duck Hill lynching. After the news was read in the House, Representative Hatton W. Sumners, Democrat of Texas, chairman of the judiciary committee, and one of the strongest opponents of the bill, remarked "This makes it hard for us to fight the bill successfully," said Mr. Sumners. "As one southern man to another, I hope I will not be considered impertinent by stating candidly my own reaction and that is that the State of Mississippi cannot escape this reflection upon its governmental capacity, in fact, can not escape in effect becoming an accessory after the fact, unless it is able to and does bring these lynchers and officers to speedy and adequate punishment."

Representative Boland, Democratic whip of the House announced early in the session "we will stay in session until the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill is passed today." He also announced that he anticipated the probability of efforts by southern members to delay a vote.

Representative Edward W. Curley, Democrat, of New York, deplored the injection of the sectional issue in the debate. He pointed to the argument of Mr. Wadsworth against it as proof that the measure is nonsectional.

Contending that mob violence is wholly a state issue, Representative John R. Mitchell, Democrat, of Tennessee, asserted that there was no justification for the passage of the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill.

He argued that "It arouses sectional hatred" and that "it is intended to rebuke the South."

Bringing into the discussion pictures of "Old Black Joe" and the black mammy, Representative Zebulon Weaver, Democrat, of North Carolina, pleaded with the House to leave the problem of lynching to the states.

He told of the prosecution and conviction of 32 members of a mob in North Carolina, who took from a jail a New Jersey white man charged with a criminal assault on a young white woman. He also recited another instance in which 20 members of a mob were convicted and given prison sentences for attempting to remove from a jail colored defendants who were awaiting trial on charges of criminal assault on three white women.

When he yielded the floor, Representative Fish, Republican, of New York, who with Mr. Gavagan led the fight for passage of the bill, reminded Mr. Weaver that next to Virginia "North Carolina has the best record in preventing lynching of any southern state."

Representative J. Will Taylor, Republican, of Tennessee, taking the Duck Hill, Miss., lynchings as text, declared that "The Spanish inquisition, infamous for its acts of sadistc cruelty, does not afford a parallel. And yet scores of other cases in recent years of equal or greater repugnance and atrocity could be cited."

Representative Sam D. McReynolds, Democrat, of Tennessee, at

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Representative Charles L. Gifford act applying only after the victim

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n Democrats "paying ners, of Texas, chairman of the

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"Enactment of the Gavagan Anti-

Lynching bill," stated Representa-

ve Gul L. Moser, Democrat, of

ennsylvania, "will have the effect

He explained his vote against the measure by saying that it was "vote of my community, saying to the federal government, you failed in the purpose ascribed to the Mann Act, you failed in the pur-pose ascribed to the Volstead Act your impotence has proved the ut-

He expressed

...ot of you gentlemen know noth-
...ing of," and added that the bill
...would not only not prevent lynch-
...ing, but might prove less of a pro-
...tection to colored people than its
...sponsors hoped.

He also pointed out that the bill was directed only toward the protection of persons in custody of officers. He occupied the floor about half an hour. He consumed most of his time in an appeal to the House to let the South handle the lynching problem in its own manner.

"You men," he said pointing to the table where sat Representative Joseph A. Gavagan, author of the bill, and Representative Emanuel Celler, both Democrats, of New York, "are sincere in your efforts to help protect the Negro race. But I tell you that you will not aid the Negro race with this bill, because it is unworkable.

The South has reduced the crime of lynching more than 5,000 per cent in the last forty years, and that is proof that the tide of public sentiment will take better care of this situation than can any law you enact."

Dixie Representatives Bitter

The close of the furious debate found the bloc of southern Democratic representatives deeply resentful as they faced defeat in their opposition to the bill. Their bitterness was directed at northern members of their own party.

Howling and shouting, Representative E. E. Cox (D., Ga.) declared, "For more than 100 years the people of the South have kept life in the Democratic party, and now that that party has grown powerful it turns upon the South and proposes to pass this wicked and cowardly law. This bill is directed just as much against the South as any reconstruction bill passed after the civil war.

"It is an attempt to break the spirit of the white South and in time bring about social equality. I want to inform this house that the color line in the South is a permanent institution. It will not break, and we will maintain our social purity. The South does not mean to be mongrelized as the result of foderal domination."

Representative James W. Wadsworth (R., N.Y.), who declared the act gave the federal government immense powers, and asserted that no court could find it constitutional was the lone Republican to argue against the bill.

"Lynching is not only a disgrace to the South, but to the whole nation," he remarked.

On several occasions the southern Democrats were taunted by reminiscences of their support of the Volstead act.

A heated response came from John L. McClellan (D., Ark.) who pointed at a group of Democrats from New York City and shouted:

"There is an old law about coming into court with clean hands and it applies to legislation. You New Yorkers leave your city to go into the South to wipe out a few ...ts of blood, while you wade in ...

...your home home city! Snoop around your own back doors for a change!"

Shakes Fists at Galleries

The southern representatives grew more vitriolic as the debate grew more heated. John E. Rankin (D., Miss.), shaking his fist at the galleries, where colored persons were in the majority, yelled that "this is a bill to encourage Negroes to think they can rape white women!"

Representative Arthur Mitchell (D., Ill.), in his appeal declared, "When I was head of a school in Alabama I once knew what it was to fear mob violence because of some misunderstanding about a $20 check. A mob formed to march upon my house, and I stood at a window with a rifle, while my wife armed herself with a pistol. Luckily there was no trouble, but I know what little chance a man of my race has when the mob spirit is aroused."

Chairman Hatton W. Summers, (D., Tex.), chairman of the house judiciary committee, who promised to aid Representative Mitchell went into a rage. He pladed, "Why don't you northerners leave us alone down there? You who are so excited about lynchings are living in gangster-ridden cities, terrorized by gangsters. You in New England stole the Negroes out of Africa in the first place and brought them to the South. You better leave this problem to us and tend to something you know something about!"

Yells from the minority side accompanied Sumners' reflection that —"we've got an acute attack of 'federalitis' in this country."

"Do you agree that the inspiration for 'federalitis' comes from high places in the government?" inquired Roy Woodward (R., Mich.).

"We've got a chance today to show those in high places how things should be done," retorted Sumners.

Texan Supports Measure

Maury Maverick (D., Tex.), was one of the few southerners to support the measure.

LAW ON LYNCHING IS PRESSED AGAIN

Demand for Federal Statute Is Result of Half a Century of Reform Agitation

By HENRY LEE MOON

The passage by the House of Representatives on Thursday of the Gavagan bill, providing Federal punishment for officers surrendering prisoners to lynch mobs, climaxed a half century of agitation and organized effort for the enactment of Federal legislation to combat lynching.

The original agitation was inspired by the lynching, in various parts of the country, of a large number of aliens—Italians, Chinese, Japanese, Bohemians, Mexicans, and citizens of Great Britain and Switzerland—between 1887 and 1901. These incidents caused the United States Government great embarrassment and resulted in the payment of $475,500 in indemnities to foreign governments.

Sporadic agitation in widely separated sections was crystallized in 1891 following the lynching of eleven Italian murder suspects in New Orleans. The case created a tense situation between the United States and Italy. So widespread was the criticism of Louisiana that a group of prominent citizens of that State petitioned their Legislature and organized a lobby to fight for a law against lynching.

State Laws Enacted

This effort failed, but the organization of several citizens' committees in the South led to the enactment of a series of State laws to protect both Americans and aliens from mob violence.

The Georgia Legislature passed the first act in 1893. It provided for prison terms up to twenty years. North Carolina followed suit the same year with a law which made change of venue mandatory in lynch trials. In 1895 South Carolina adopted a new State Constitution which empowered the Governor to remove a Sheriff for failing to protect a prisoner, and assessed the county of the lynching $2,000 for damages to the victim's family. During the next eight years Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Kansas all passed anti-lynching laws.

Although none of the local laws proved effective, since no lynchers were punished or Sheriffs removed, they did strengthen the anti-lynching movement and reduce to a slight degree the number of lynchings. Whereas from 1890 to 1900 there were 1,665 lynchings, from 1900 to 1910 only 921 persons died through mob violence.

For Federal Action

Even before the Louisiana incident a movement had been started in the North to have the Federal Government enact legislation for the protection of aliens from mobs. Led by the late Senator George F. Hoar of Massachusetts, the movement finally resulted in 1902 in the drafting and introduction in the House of the first Federal Anti-Lynching Bill.

The House refused to debate the bill, but the movement was kept alive. It acquired a permanent nature in 1909 with the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People by the late Moorfield Storey and other liberals. Systematically collecting facts about lynching, the association during its first decade publicized the evil throughout the United States and several foreign countries through meetings and literature. In July, 1917, the organization sponsored its first silent protest parade against lynching, and more than 15,000 Negroes marched down Fifth Avenue in New York.

Stirred by this demonstration, other organizations joined the anti-lynching movement. The most effective of these was the Commission of Interracial Cooperation of Atlanta, Ga., which brought about the organization in most Southern States of associations of women for the prevention of lynching.

House Action in 1922

Through the efforts of the N. A. A. C. P. and supporting organizations, the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill was passed 230 to 119 by the House of Representatives in 1922, only to be killed in the Senate by a filibuster. The fight was later strengthened by the open support of more than a dozen influential daily newspapers in the South.

In 1935, when the N. A. A. C. P. pushed its drive for the enactment of the Costigan-Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill, more than two dozen national organizations, with an estimated membership of 42,000,000 persons, supported the measure. The movement has become even stronger in the last two years through the campaign of the Catholic Church to stamp out lynching and through memorials to Congress by the Legislatures of Rhode Island, New York, Colorado, Michigan, Nebraska and Indiana.

A recent poll of the American Institute of Public Opinion tended to show that 70 per cent of the people of the country now favor Federal legislation against lynching. In the Southern States 65 per cent now favor Federal action.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
April 15, 1937

UNFORTUNATE ARGUMENT

While the anti-lynching bill was being argued in the Congress this week, a mob in Mississippi lynched two Negroes who had confessed to murdering a white storekeeper. They were after money. The man was killed about three months ago.

The mob probably had not heard of the proposed anti-lynching law and had no conception of what it will mean but they gave advocates of the law most timely argument for it.

It was the first lynching in Mississippi since 1935, the press report said.

Very deplorable.

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CIVIL WAR ECHOES

FEATURING ACRIMONIOUS debate between Northern and Southern Congressmen, the Civil War was fought all over again last week on the floor of the House of Representatives when the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill came up for consideration. As in the Civil War, the North emerged victorious in this fight, passing the bill by a vote of 277 to 119.

Having been successful thus far, proponents of the bill now face their stiffest fight in the Senate where already several of the Senators have promised to filibuster the bill to death. Coincident with the announcement of the passage of the bill in the House, Senator Borah issued a statement condemning what he called "an effort to force through Congress an unjust, unconstitutional and, in my opinion, an unmoral measure."

The argument used by the Southern Congressmen that lynching is being effectively wiped out, was proved ineffectual by the two brutal torch lynchings which took place in Mississippi on Tuesday.

The debate prior to passage of the bill waxed hot and furious with only one Southern Congressman, Representative Maverick of Texas, having enough intestinal fortitude to come out openly on the floor and espouse passage of the bill. Probably Representative Maverick will not be regarded any too favorably by his constituents back in Texas, for his forthright attitude on this bill, but there is little likelihood that there will be any repercussions at the polls when next he comes up for reelection.

There were some classical lines recorded for history during the debate, some of which we reproduce below in part:

Representative Guyer (Republican from Kansas):

"It is a rather sad commentary upon our civilization in America that we seem to excel in this disgrace of modern organized society. Mob violence is a sort of collective insanity whose contagion spreads and consumes like a prairie fire. In its mad rage, reason is dragged from her throne, pity and mercy are forgotten, and only mad delirium of vengeance reigns."

Representative Fish (Republican, New York):

"What surprises me in connection with the consideration of this bill is that a bill such as this has not been enacted into law long ago. Five thousand Americans have been lynched in the past 50 years in this great free country of ours, that is supposed to be the most civilized in the world. The rest of the world laughs at us every time we say we stand for justice and law and order. They bring up that stigma of lynch law and throw it back in our face."

Representative Cox (Democrat, Georgia):

"This is the first of a number of bills we can expect to come in this House from the reformers of the North seeking to establish racial equality in the South....The South will never surrender its racial lines."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People deserves credit for its work in getting signatures and pledges for passage of the Gavagan Bill in the House. Now that the fight goes to the upper house, we sincerely hope that the Senators will not fight the Civil War all over again. Now is the time for all persons interested in passage of the bill by the Senate asking their favorable action on the bill.

We might also suggest that the N. A. A. C. P. keep a strict eye on those Senators who have promised to lead the filibuster against the bill for the day will come when they can be repaid at the polls.

How very simple the whole procedure would be if only President Roosevelt would only say the word that he wanted the bill passed for the benefit of the real "forgotten man" — the Negro.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
April 16, 1937

Capable of Handling Our Affairs

Paraphrasing the words of Representative Stephen Pace, of the Third Georgia district of which Columbus is a part, as he stood before the house of representatives and pleaded to the congress to leave with the south the right of governing itself as he opposed adoption of the anti-lynch law bill, since passed by that body, the south is a land of peace-loving and law-abiding citizens where security against violence is greater than in any other part of the nation.

Using sound, common reasoning, prefaced with a discourse on the legality of the proposed measure, Mr. Pace cited instance after instance why an anti-lynch law is unnecessary and why the right of governing and handling their problems should be left with the states.

We quote from his remarks in part:

"I believe that the President, who has made Georgia his second home, is sufficiently acquainted with conditions in my state and all over the south to know we are able to solve our own local problems of this kind; that we know how to keep friendly and proper relations between the races, and that we do not need the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a district court and a threat of imprisonment over our officers and a liabilty for indemnity over our heads in order to properly conduct our home affairs. I am sure that if the President were at liberty to speak freely he would tell you that he feels safer and more free from harm while at Warm Springs, Ga., than at any other place in this nation. There among a simple, honest, law abiding, law respecting, and native American citizenry he dismisses his secret service, climbs in his old roaster, and rides alone whenever and wherever he pleases, free from harm or alarm.

"I say to you that this bill, if it becomes the law, will do many times more harm than good. I predict, gentlemen, and God knows I hope I am wrong, that such a law as this will bring on 10 times more lynchings than we have had in the past. Some of our negro population is law abiding and is making a real effort to maintain proper relations between the races, but there are some that have no respect for the law or the constituted authorities, and when you give this latter class cause to believe that the federal government is back of them and is protecting them, it is going to bring on a condition most difficult to handle. I pray it will never again be necessary for the Klan to protect the South, but those of you from other parts of this nation are showing mighty little consideration for our conditions down home.

"Let me beg you, let me appeal to you, to your manhood, to your statesmanship, to let us handle our own local troubles in our own way. You must agree that we are making wonderful progress in this matter. The records show that in 1892 there were 226 people lynched, in 1932 there were 8, and so far this year there has been only 1. Do not you think we are doing a pretty good job of a bad situation? Do you think these efforts on our part justify this attempt on the part of members from other sections of the nation, who know nothing of our problems, and care less, to force on us the powers of the federal government in purely local or state

Those who would free the South of lynchings, could best first clean their own ballwicks of gang killings and gang massacres. In all fairness, which is the lesser of the two evils? We cannot believe that the senate is going to follow the mistake of the house in passing the anti-lynch bill.

There is no more excuse for an anti-lynch law to cover the South than there is for an anti-

gangster law to apply to the North. There are laws against murder and mob violence and they are being applied in the South the same as in other sections of the country. If there were need it would be better for repeal to come from those who are wholly unfamiliar with conditions in Dixie and are basing their inaccurate and often vicious opinions on pure heresy.

The South is capable of handling the lynching problem. It has proven that and there is no need for the enactment of a federal statute to handle a situation that is already in hand in the South.

Durham, N. C. Herald
April 18, 1937

"FIXING" LYNCHING BY LAW

The size of the majority by which the anti-lynching bill passed the house, many are saying, forecasts its ultimate approval by the Senate. Others intervene with the opinion that southern senators will talk the House-approved bill to death as they have done other bills of similar import.

Both observations are plausible and reconcilable with experience and the record. The size of the House vote and the fact that it conformed to sectional lines suggests that the best guessers figure political sentiment in the home bailiwicks of the majority of senators is in favor of the bill. And no one needs to depend on guessers to say that southern senators will be on the job when it comes to talking against the proposition.

We would, however, go afield and beyond the House vote and the talkativeness of southern senators for basis of the forecast of victory for advocates of the federal anti-lynching bill. We would go back to the law enforcing machinery of the several states where lynchings occur and where laws against lynchings already on the books are talked to death, even as southern senators would talk the pending federal anti-lynching bill to death.

In most jurisdictions there are anti-lynching statutes on the books and everywhere lynchings and lynchers are officially condemned, condemned as completely as the pending bill condemns them. But what is done by statute and officially is not done in practice, and there is where sprouted the seed that put the anti-lynching bill through the House and will very likely put it through the Senate.

It is one of the "good old American" customs to fix everything by passing a law. In the House debate on the anti-lynching bill, for instance, southerners in general and North Carolina's spokesmen in particular predicated opposition speeches on fact that the states already have "fixed" lynchings by state statute. North Carolina, one of our representatives boasted, has an anti-lynching law.

Yes, North Carolina has an anti-lynching law and so do the other states. Trouble is we brag about the law when there is no occasion to use it and forget it is on the books when there is occasion to use it.

We are not so sure a federal anti- ently. Our offhand guess is that the same people would apply the same formula.

But we are not disposed to line up with those who don't like a federal anti-lynching law because states already have such laws and then hold their tongues when the state laws are ignored. The state anti-lynching laws haven't "fixed" things and we doubt that a federal law will. It is possible though that two "fixings" will produce better results than one and we are willing that it be tried.

Anti-Lynching Aftermath

THE esteemed Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch is apparently very unhappy over the passage by the House of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which it designates "the Tammany anti-lynching bill." Our contemporary is in a position of peculiar isolation. The daily press of the State has quite generally agreed, that while it would be right and proper for the States to control mob law, they have failed to do so in the lower South, and some form of Federal action is now necessary to curb the rule of the mob. The papers of Richmond, Danville, Roanoke, Bristol and Newport News, among others, have placed themselves squarely upon record as having reached the conclusion that Federal action is necessary, however regrettable in their estimation, that may be.

The Ledger Dispatch is particularly disturbed over the provisions of the Gavagan bill that impose a fine of from $2,000 to $10,000 upon a county in which a lynching takes place, and hopes that Virginia's Senators, "joining with its Representatives, will vote against the bill." Our guess is that our esteemed and greatly respected contemporary will have nothing to regret as far as our Senators are concerned, as it has had nothing to regret over the way our Representatives voted.

If, however, our Representatives had wanted to vote for a bill that was as moderate in its provisions as the Virginia statute itself, there was the Mitchell bill, doctored by Chairman Sumners, of the Judiciary Committee and favorably reported, but which the House tossed aside by a combination of Southern Democrats and Northern Republicans, who, the Chicago Congressman says, did not want to see a bill passed that was introduced by a Negro Democrat.

The House would not even consider the Mitchell bill. Our Mr. Hamilton voted for its consideration, but promptly announced that had it come to a vote on its passage he would have cast his ballot against it.

If the Southern Congressmen had wanted to defeat the Gavagan bill they had an excellent opportunity to take the lead in putting through a bill less drastic. They contented themselves with voting against all anti-lynching bills.

If a vast majority of the influential newspapers of the South represent the enlightened sentiment of the section on the matter of law observance the Congressmen are out of line. They have mis-guessed public sentiment.

We are distressed that the Ledger-Dispatch, heretofore so sensitive to the cause of higher civilization, should find itself almost alone, editorially, on the question of how best to control the ravages of the worst crime with which our social order is afflicted. Right at heart, of course, but out of step this time with overwhelming public sentiment as to procedure, although the procedure may appear at this stage, somewhat drastic.

FOR THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Editor The Advertiser:

For several weeks it has been in my mind to ask The Advertiser to give its readers an editorial on the pros and cons of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill. This morning when I spied the letter, "Alabama Statesmen," I had hopes of gaining information of a definite description on this subject. Alas for mortalities; how often we hear such phrases as "usurpers of States' Rights" and "destroy constitutional guarantees of freedom."

As I read the quoted part of Congressman Hobbs's speech I was impressed only by the fact that Mr. Hobbs gave no definite or, to my mind, significant reason in defense of his stand.

Why is the bill "a rape of justice?" The State guarantees each individual his constitutional right of trial by jury. In every lynching which occurs the State fails in its duty to the victim. Lynching is the act of a mob but the responsibility of State and county government. In what State has a member or members of a lynching mob been indicted, convicted and executed for usurping State's rights, for committing murder?

If a sovereign State cannot or will not prosecute and convict its lynching mobs then it is indeed time for a Federal anti-lynching law which will not close one eye nor be overpowered by the lust of a few blood-thirsty maniacs.

Perhaps I have no right to question Mr. Hobbs's statement, "But while some have been risking their lives to prevent mob violence, others introduce bills. . . ." This statement completely lacks specific examples and I could wish that he had been a little more explicit. Examples are effective, particularly in political speeches. Has Mr. Hobbs risked his life to rescue a victim or prevent mob violence? It would be my guess that the man who risked his life to prevent a lynching, and his number is deplorably few, would also be the one to advocate the anti-lynching bill. He would not only have sec- how ineffective the county and State had been in protecting its charge (presuming, of course, that this man is not an officer of the law, and he seldom is) but doubtless would have himself known the horror of the rope around his neck and the lash upon his back. The quoted text of Mr. Hobbs's speech is full of sweeping misstatements, void of any pretense of explanation.

"Does the spirit of mob violence which is driving this bill through the House make it right?" If one were sitting in the House of Representatives listening to this speech one might be able to salt down the exaggeration of such an expression. In the quiet of one's house in Alabama one is liable to conjure up the most extraordinary pictures of congressmen roaring and cursing one another, pushing, jamming and banging. But even such a picture is pleasant compared to another type of mob violence which results in burning of human flesh and renewed hatred created in the hearts of man.

And Mr. Hobbs, of course, answers himself: "No!", he shouts, "it is just as wrong as the hinges of hell." He does not even explain what is wrong with the hinges of hell, he just takes it for granted that we have all been there and have first hand information on the subject.

A. S. W.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
April 17, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill

Passage of the anti-lynching bill by the overwhelming vote of 277 to 119 was in striking contrast to the 236-149 vote of the House of Representatives in defeating a resolution condemning sit-down strikes, notwithstanding the underlying principles of the two measures are almost identical. Many of the Democratic members will have to plead Ashurstian inconsistency to explain their votes.

Both the anti-lynching bill and the sit-down strike resolution are measures that encroach upon local and state affairs pertaining to law enforcement.

The anti-lynching bill is much stronger than was the anti-sit-down strike resolution, yet the former passed by a larger majority than that which defeated the lat-

Tennessee are not guilty of this inconsistency of a felony if they fail to protect. They voted for both measures. Law enforcement officers are made prisoners from mobs under the anti-lynching bill, but they would have been merely censured for not protecting industrial plants against lawless strikers under the anti-sit-down resolution.

The two Republican Representatives from

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Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
November 23, 1937

MISS DIXIE'S MAIDEN SPEECH

The other day "Miss Dixie," i.e., Senator Graves from Alabama, made her maiden speech in the United States Senate. She spoke against the "anti-lynching bill' of Northern origin. She spoke as a daughter of the Deep South. So impressive was her manner, so earnest her reasoning that at the end of her first address she received applause from colleagues who rarely applaud a speaker. An incident of her ovation is the fact that Senators crowded around her to congratulate her and the next morning her pictufe appeared on the front pages of many American newspapers along with a brief account of her remarks.

It should be of interest to Alabamians to read a more complete account of Senator Graves's remarks in her first address to the Senate. We herewith quote excerpts from the Congressional Record:

Mrs. Graves. Mr. President, a new Senator, I believe, is supposed to be seen and not heard, particularly if she has not prepared in detail her maiden speech. I had not expected to speak on this subject, at least for a long time, because I thought crop-control measures would be considered first. But since the anti-lynching measure has taken precedence over all other measures, I feel that it is of such import as to demand an expression of my convictions. I shall not speak to consume time, nor shall I discuss other measures that may be more important to our country as a whole; but I shall confine myself merely to the bill in question.

Mr. President, I abhor lynching. It is a crime designed to punish crime or to prevent a recurrence of crime. We know from history, however, that lynching has been common to all countries in an unsettled condition. We know from history that every part of these United States has its heritage of extra-legal activity. We are told, in fact, explicitly by no less an authority than the encyclopedia that lynch law, not civil law, cleared the forests and valleys of the West of the horse and cattle thieves. That was lynching, and I abhor lynching. We know that in the pioneer days of the West, where cattle and horses represented the living of the pioneers, there was such an epidemic of thieving that numbers of ranchers banded themselves together and inflicted summary punishment upon the criminals; but in doing so they committed a crime, for they were guilty of lynching.

Lynching originated in the South, where helpless women and children in isolated sections were made the victims of the most brutal of all crimes. Men, incensed by such outrages, would band themselves together occasionally and inflict summary punishment upon the guilty criminals. When they did this they were guilty of lynching and therefore of crime; and I abhor lynchings and other forms of crime.

I abhor the crime of the machine-gunner racketeer. When organized bands of murderers blaze their way through the streets of a city and mow down helpless and innocent bystanders, if, perchance, they happen to be in the way of the intended victims of such murderers, they are guilty of murder and they constitute a mob, but they are not committing crime to punish crime; they are committing crime to satisfy their lust for blood or power.

I abhor all this; but I rejoice, Mr. President, to see that times and conditions in the West have changed, and that today an earnest law-enforcement authority, backed by public opinion, has banished the crime of lynching from the West; and now, when an occasional horse thief is caught, he suffers only the penalty that constituted authority imposes.

Mr. President, I rejoice, too, that in the South the constituted authorities, diligent about their business and strengthened by public opinion, are banishing the crime of lynching. In proof of this I have but to submit figures which are furnished by authority, and to reiterate, though it may have been heard on the floor of the Senate before, that whereas 10 years ago, in 1926, there were throughout the country a total of 30 lynchings, at the end of the 10-year period in 1936, which was last year, there were only 8 or 10—there seems to be a conflict of authority, so I shall use the larger number—only 10 lynchings. Thus in the 10-year period there was a reduction of two-thirds, which would mean, if pursued to its logical conclusion, that at the end of five years there will not be a single crime of lynching in these United States. Is not that an amazing record for the South or for any other part of the country where lynchings may have taken place in large numbers heretofore? Today we are deeply concerned with the rapid increase of crime throughout our country, and yet we have this amazing spectacle of what is almost an eradication of lynching in the United States.

Mr. President, I do not know what is the record of machine gunners, and if I did know I should not quote it in this Chamber, nor would I consent to send a representative or an investigator from the Federal Government into a city where machine gunners ply their daily trade to find if, perchance, some precinct policeman, when those guns were blazing away, instead of rushing into the danger, perhaps prudently sought shelter. No, I would never consent to send an investigator there, because I believe that the local authorities, backed by the State authorities, feel those things far more keenly than can any outsider; and I am confident, because I attribute to others the same motive I myself possess, that the eternal and determined diligence of local and State authorities in those cities and States, backed by a public opinion, will be so effective that this crime, too, will pass in itme. I have every confidence in the peace officers and the authorities of my sister States.

Mr. President, last summer, when I entered this Chamber for the first time, I felt that there was no greater privilege than to serve the presnt age, and no greater opportunity for rendering such service than through membership in this great deliberative body, the Senate of these United States. I was filled with a feeling of mutual understanding, of unity, of oneness of purpose, for we had suffered and rejoiced together; we had known want and plenty together; we were at peace; and we, as ambassadors from great sovereign, indestructible States, were met here to counsel, to consider, and to enact legislation for the general welfare. So I was happy and grateful to be admitted into your midst; and as I participate in the first business of this body at the present session I find that we are to discuss the anti-lynching bill. Not being learned in the law, I shall not attempt to touch on the constitutionality of this measure, but I feel that I can speak of reason and of justice as applied to the bill in question.

As to reason, Mr. President, surely only a compelling emergency should cause this body to strike down the sovereignty of an indestructible State and utilize the forces of the Federal Government to insure law and order; but no such emergency exists. The emergency, if one ever existed, has passed. The problem is being solved. If a specific remedy for a certain disease had been applied so effectively that in a period of 10 years the number of new cases was diminished by two-thirds, which would means that in another five years the disease would be completely conquered, would it be wise to change to another remedy, untried and drastic in its nature? Surely there is no reason for that.

As to justice, Mr. President, to punish deliberately men known to be innocent is a new departure in Americanism. I say that advisedly: To punish deliberately innocent men is a new departure in Americanism, and a most unwelcome one. What justice is there in punishing thousands of citizens of a county because, perchance, one of their law officers failed to do his full duty in protecting a criminal? If we enact this bill into law, every taxpayer in a county where one officer may be negligent may be insulted, condemned, and punished without any legal procedure to which he is party.

Mr. President, a general wrong perpetrated in the effort to avenge a particular wrong is evil. There is no justice in this bill.

* * * *

That is the very bulwark of their safety; and I cannot believe that that will yield to expediency, because if this bill is passed you will say, not merely to America, but you men representing great sovereign States will say to the world, "We have in our Union a group of Southern States that cannot or will not enforce the law. Therefore we will impose our law and take possession."

That is the word, the unmistakable message, that you will send to the world; and I cannot believe that any Senator, no matter whether he is a Republican or a Democrat, would thus violate the indestructible sovereignty of a sister State on the ground of expediency. No; I thrust that from me.

So there is only one alternative left, Mr. President, and that is misinformation or lack of information.

I was struck with this thought day before yesterday when a supposedly well-informed person, an interested person, one who presumably was conversant with national and world affairs, asked my position on this matter. I said, "Why, there is no problem. The South is taking care of that itself"; and this person turned to me with amazement and said, "But you have not any laws against lynching, have you, in the South?"

SENATOR GRAVES' MAIDEN SPEECH

Somehow, we had looked forward with a deal of interest to the time when Senator Dixie Graves from Alabama would make her maiden speech before the United States Senate, of which she has recently become a member. Of course, we did not know whether the Farm Bill or the Anti-Lynching Bill would afford her the opportunity but unfortunately for her, the Anti-lynching Bill gave her the opportunity and we must say that we were somewhat disappointed with the defense she made of lynching. She begged and pleaded with her colleagues for another five-year lease on lynching, notwithstanding the record that more than five thousand victims have been put to death by mob violence in the South, and little or nothing has been done about it.

Whether she said what she was "told to say" by her husband, Bibb Graves, Governor of Alabama, who appointed her to the office, makes no difference; the expressions were presumed to be her own words, of her own feelings on the subject. When she was appointed to this important office, we thought perchance, she might be wise enough to condemn lynching at her first opportunity, just as the leading white women of the South have done on several occasions. We also had in mind the fact that the leading white women of the South have repudiated the charges that lynching is for the purpose of defending Southern womanhood. But Mrs. Graves, in her first speech, resorted to the common demagogic method of dragging in the red herring, "unspeakable crime," to divert attention from the main issue. We were tickled, almost to outright laughter, as we noted that she said, "If this bill is passed, you will say, not merely to America but to the world, 'We have in our Union a group of Southern States that cannot or will not enforce the law'." This reminds us of the Victorian Age, when people didn't mind doing things disgraceful, but didn't want you to talk about it.

Senator Graves evidently thought she scored a point when she stated that "to punish the innocent is a new departure in Americanism." We would invite her attention to the fact that the records show that many innocent Negroes have been lynched. Mob psychology, as has been shown, gives little or no thought as to whether its victim is guilty or innocent. Blood is all it wants. During its rampage, many innocent victims are beaten and maltreated by these mobs. Then, too, the presumption of the law is that every person is innocent, until he or she has been duly indicted and convicted by a jury of his peers. It would be a fair statement that, as far as the law is concerned, most of the more than five thousand victims were innocent, because they never had their day in court.

But, we do not picture the Junior Senator from Alabama as being mean, vicious, uncultured, etc. She is a victim of a social caste and a vicious slave system which has made the South poor and her statesmen backward. She perchances to live in and was probably born in a section of this country that believes in lynching and burning of Negroes, just because they are Negroes. The "unspeakable" crime of which she makes mention is committed by white men in the South but, no lynching. When Senator Graves gets upon the Senate floor and pleads in one breath that she abhors lynching and in the next breath uses all the words at her command to justify lynching, she is merely using the language of Tom Connally, Hugo Black, Ed. "Cotton" Smith, and the rest of the southern statesmen. With whatever training or intelligence she possesses, she is not able to rise above the Southern [illegible]. What she said will soon die and be forgotten. On the other hand, she had been able to rise above the fog of the demagogue, presenting herself in the Senate Chamber as a representative of a new South to which she is looking forward, as an exponent of truth and justice; and in discussing the Anti-lynching bill, had called a spade a spade, and thrown herself into the fight for right and justice of all people, and for the equal protection of the laws for all the citizens of the United States, she then, would be today, not merely another Senator from the South with reactionary ideas, but a heroine, such as this country has never known, a Joan of Arc of the twentieth century.

We are told that applause followed her speech. But had she made the other speech as we have suggested in this article, where she received one applause, a thousand would have been hers. Her praises would have been sung in Dixie as well as New York. And when the names of great women of America are written, Dixie Graves might have had her name written in large letters.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
November 19, 1937

The Lynching Bill

Biggest issue in Congress, appears from early oratorical flourishes, is the anti-lynching bill to which the Senate has devoted the first full week of its special session. A strong group of eastern senators has been trying to cram this bill down the necks of Southern senators with the intention, so it is said, of helping to clean up the South's back yard.

While it could be argued that the New England senators would do well to devote their attention to their own trash cans, still we believe that substantial opposition to the bill can be successfully maintained on the strength of the theory that this particular measure instead of helping to reduce lynching in the South may actually increase it, and that under any circumstances it will have no beneficial results.

The anti-lynching bill provides that any county in which a lynching occurs shall be fined $10,000 and that any sheriff from whom a prisoner is taken and later lynched shall be criminally liable. In the event of such a lynching the county commissioners of the county in which the lynching occurred would be required by federal law to include in their budget this item of $10,000 and collect the necessary taxes for it from the local taxpayers.

Overlooking the fact that there is no constitutional right given the federal government for fining any city, county, or state, regardless of what it does, and that the federal government has no more power to fine a county, than a county has to fine the federal government, we get considerable amusement in speculating on just what would happen if such a bill finally were enacted into law and a subservient Supreme Court allowed it to stick.

Suppose, for instance, that there were a peculiarly vicious crime committed in Seminole County, and a mob were organized for the purpose of lynching the prisoner. Then suppose the taxpayers, aware of the penalties for such an offense and reluctant to pay the fine even under the exigencies of the emergency, finally succeeded in talking the mob into a fair consideration of their pocketbooks, and got them to disperse and go home.

But then suppose that a crowd in Orange county heard about it and decided that such a crime should not go unpunished any longer than it takes to stretch a rope, and aware of the fact that it would be Seminole County taxpayers under any circumstances who would have to pay the fine, got together, came over here, seized the prisoner, and lynched him. Seminole County citizens would be assessed a $10,000 fine just the same even though they did everything they could to prevent the lynching.

And the next time a peculiarly heinous crime occurred in Seminole County, what influence would the taxpayers then have in talking the mob out of hanging the prisoner? There would probably be some sort of agreement reached very shortly whereby Seminole County's prisoners would be taken over to Orange county and strung up there. Then Orange county citizens would have to pay the fine.

There are wonderful possibilities in this federal control of the lynching evil. We can envision all sorts of eventualities from the government's well meaning but ill considered plans to police the South.

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"IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION"

Duffy in The Baltimore Sun

Victory for the Anti-Lynching Bill is seen despite filibustering.

Danville, Va., Bee
November 17, 1937

The Anti-Lynch Bill

The filibuster on the anti-lynching bill which began with the opening of an important session of congress demonstrates how far Southern senators are prepared to go in resisting its enactent as a law. Why it should have been taken up so immediately is hard to understand with administration leaders reported concerned about other more immediate and pressing matters. The situation, however, is significant in that it shows that congress is in a fighting mood and will not be regimented as during the earlier phases of the administration.

The anti-lynching bill has been forced to the front again lately by the Gallup poll, that typically American institution of New Mexico which attempts to sound out national opinion on public questions. The poll showed 72 per cent of the country favoring some form of federal enactment which would make unhealthy for any state the crime of mass accomplished murder.

There remains sharp objection to the proposed method of penalizing localities where lynchings take place by assessing fines against them, not that this would fail to tighten up the protection of suspected rapists and murderers, but because it is a usurpation by the federal government of a state's right. Lynching may well be condemned far and wide because of its sheer injustice but inasmuch as the law would apply more generally to the South and Southwest the hue and cry about the abridgment of state's rights would transcend the sentiment in favor of anti-lynching legislation.

The law against lynching should primarily apply to those who take part in these midnight assassinations and burnings rather than against officers of the law who may have failed to exercise common prudence in handling their prisoners.

The federal statute reaches out for the thief who steals an automoble in one state and drives it to another. There is no public anguish over that law because it is highly effective and obviates the difficulty of extradition. In the same way a federal statute which would make lynchers amenable to the federal courts would be more efficaceous because it would bring to the locality the instrumentation of detection more alert and less immune to "local atmosphere."

TIMELY OBSERVATION

Under the head of "Southerners For A Federal Lynch Bill," The New Orleans Item-Tribune, editorially observes the attitude of southerners anent the anti-lynching bill as follows:

An extensive poll reported today by the American Institute of Public Opinion indicates that 72 percent of the typical classes embraced by it favor Federal legislation against the barbarous crime of lynching. This finding was to be expected.

The poll also shows that 57 per cent of the Southerners voting in it likewise favor the same thing. This might not have been anticipated by some of us. But for some years past we ourselves have had little or no doubt that practically all of the humane and intelligent people of the South, and a good majority of all Southerners, were of that mind. Multiplying signs convinced us that the progress of civilization was overcoming the claims of a very dubious legalism invoked to defend this survival of lawless savagery.

On several occasions we have expressed doubt that Southern Congressmen have been correctly representing the enlightened majority of their people when they assumed heights of indignation at the suggestion of Federal action against lynching. The same thing is said in other terms by the interpreters of the present poll.

It woud be a gross mistake to assume that the 43 percent of these Southerners who are disposed against Federal action upon lynching, countenance lynching itself. We have no doubt that most of them reprobate it heartily. They are merely prejudiced against Federal measures to check it, preferring to leave its cure to the slow and doubtful growth of sentiment that will compel a proper policing of this form of atrocity by state agencies.

We think there is no doubt that a small minority in the South—and in other parts of the country too—believe in 'lynching' on occasions. We even think that some few of these are persons of average decency and good purpose in the other relations of life. But we have reason to believe that this class is becoming smaller and smaller as the processes of enlightenment overcome the blight of customary mental habit.

Some observation, and still more study, of lynchings themselves, has left us no doubt that the greater number of those who actually engage in it are of low and irresponsible types, often hoodlums and other bad elements in village and smalltown life. In the several cases that have come under our notice we can recall none who undertook one of these atrocities who belonged to the class that his community regarded with pride on ordinary occasions.

It is idle to enter here into a discussion of the great Constitutional objection to Federal action against this survival of savagery. That has been presented too often. It is enough to say—so far as our own view is concerned—that there is as much or more Constitutional warrant for Federal action as Constitutional ground against it.

One of he pending lynch-bills has already passed the House of Representatives. It is entitled, by agreement to early action in the Senate. How far it will serve, if passed, the purpose for which it is designed, we are in some doubt for reasons already pointed out. But it is a move in a good direction. We hope, in any case, that it will receive prompt action after due debate.

In Washington
With
GEORGE MORRIS

Back Of Lynch Bill?

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21.—When Senator Bennett Clark hung a placard on the wall of the Senate chamber, about the size of a highway billboard, with a picture of the victims of a Mississippi lynching, the motives behind the Anti-Lynching Bill were fully revealed. The obvious purpose was to make it appear that every senator who opposed the bill favored lynching and torture as shown by the billboard.

Coming down to specific cases, there are not three persons anywhere more opposed to lynching than Senators Connally, Bailey and

On the other hand there are not two persons anywhere who owe more to gangsters than Senators Clark and Wagner. Southern senators opposing the bill stand for law enforcement and have no alliance with criminals.

Wagner, on the other hand, is a beneficiary of Tammany, the New York political organization which gathers some of its recruits from gangsters and in exchange provides them with such protection as it can give. Clark is a friend of the Kansas City political organization, celebrated for violence. The bill is so drawn that the most criminals in New York and Kansas City are exempt from its provisions.

IF PASSION, prejudice and ignorance could be eliminated, it would be obvious that the sinister purpose actuating the advocates of the bill is more far-reaching than the reason which appears on the surface. If the Congress can pass a law and the Supreme Court hold it constitutional, by which the Federal Government can assume jurisdiction in one case, it can assume jurisdiction in all. If the Anti-Lynching Bill is constitutional the states might as well surrender their charters.

Senator Wagner has no patience with states anyway. They don't have states or states' rights in Germany where Senator Wagner came from, and he doesn't see any use for them in this country. He has never sponsored legislation of consequence which did not have for its purpose extension of the power of the Federal Government over the states.

BUT SENATOR WAGNER'S advocacy of centralized government and the breaking down of states cannot be attributed solely to the fact that he is foreign born. There are any number of senators who take the same socialistic attitude without the excuse of European heritage. The existence of states is the last remaining bar to centralized government and protection against Fascism or Communism, whichever is the personal preference of senators to make the states impotent.

Opposition to the Anti-Lynching Bill this time is fraught with more alarm than at any time during the 20 years it has been advocated. In the past, sponsorship was purely political. There was no question but that the Court would declare it unconstitutional. Its advocates were prompted solely by desire to corral negro votes. There is a lot of that kind of support now. Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, known as co-author of the bill, is for it for whatever good it will do him politically. But the main strength of the advocates comes from those who would get rid of states and make the Federal Government supreme.

[illegible] for more fear of consequences now than at any time in the past. While it has been conceded that the Supreme Court would unhesitatingly declare such a law unconstitutional in other years, no one knows what the Court might do now. The Court has reversed itself as often as it has upset New Deal legislation. It is no longer possible to lay a law down beside the Constitution and see if it fits the pattern and determine if it is constitutional or unconstitutional.

Senator George brought that out effectively in discussing the Anti-Lynching Bill the other day. He is one of the best lawyers in the Senate and almost any one would defer to his interpretation of the Constitution. But he declined to interpret the constitutional phases of the bill. He admitted that there was no telling what the Court might do.

BY WHICH IS MEANT that while liberals were denouncing the Court a year ago, conservatives at last have realized the predicament the country is in as a result of vacillating members of the Court, members who shift positions between decisions, and whose opinion one day is no criterion to what it will be tomorrow. In that situation lies cause for alarm.

Even a layman should be able to guess what the Constitution means when it says that the states reserve to themselves all authority not expressly ceded to the Federal Government, but no lawyer with regard for his reputation would dare predict how far the Court would go in protecting the states.

The modern interpretation of the Constitution seems to be that the Federal Government has a right to do anything that ought to be done. If lynchers should be punished, according to their reasoning, then it is constitutional for the Federal Government to punish them. If the Federal Government thinks something needs to be done in the states, regardless of whether the states think so or not, the Federal Government would usurp the authority. It is amazing to observe the equanimity with which some senators accept the proposal to destroy the states.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
November 20, 1937

OBSTRUCTING PROGRESS.

Senator George is exactly right when he condemns members of Congress for insisting on injecting the highly controversial anti-lynching bill into the special session.

President Roosevelt, in his message to the session, listed a number of objectives which should occupy the time of the members and he explained that these should be given speedy consideration. He pointed out to the Congress that recent months have witnessed a business recession which makes it imperative that something be done to restore business and industrial confidence. He also pointed out that farm relief should occupy a prominent place in the deliberations since farmers are now anxious to make their plans for 1938 and are entitled to know what they may expect from Congress. Certain other bills were listed by the President for consideration.

However, at no point in his message did he mention the need for any anti-lynching law. The country, on the whole, has expressed no desire for any such legislation. As Senator George pointed out, this effort to enact some such bill has been before the Congress for many years. At the time of its first consideration there was no demand for it and through the years, despite the efforts of a few, little or no widespread sentiment for it has been apparent.

Without entering into any discussion of the arguments for and against anti-lynching laws, there can be no justification for obstructing other important legislation to consider a bill which, at its best, is one for which there is little demand.

There are some vital issues to be settled. Congress has an opportunity to aid business in general and agriculture in particular and it is little short of criminal for the members of that body to allow a comparatively minor bit of legislation to obstruct the program.

Birmingham Ala. Post
November 20, 1937

Why Not Legislate?

Several Southern Democratic senators, including George of Georgia, Bailey of North Carolina and Connally of Texas, have been demanding that Congress quit wasting time and do something to help pull business out of the slump.

That is a sound idea. Business needs help, needs it badly. The jobs of millions depend upon business getting that help quickly. But the way these particular do-something-for-business senators want Congress to "quit wasting time" is to debate the anti-lynching bill.

Inasmuch as anti-lynching legislation has already been debated in Congress for more than 15 years, the quickest and best way for the Senate to "quit wasting time" would be for Senators George, Bailey, Connally et al to stop their talk, take their seats, and vote.

After all passage of the measure, if it did pass, would not hurt business, except the business of lynching, which, though it may be a lively industry in some states, certainly yields no dividends, pays no taxes and provides no gainful employment.

In the House also the legislative process is being choked. The stranglers are five Southern Democrats—Cox of Georgia, Driver of Arkansas, Smith of Virginia, Clark of North Carolina and Dies of Texas—abetted by four Republicans—Martin of Massachusetts, Mapes of Michigan, Taylor of Tennessee and McLean of New Jersey. These nine constitute a majority on the House rules committee. They don't like the Black-Connery wage-hour bill. And so, although the bill has been passed by the Senate and approved by the House labor committee, they have decided to use the peculiar autocratic power which a rules committee majority possesses, and not permit the bill to come before the House. These nine men won't let the 424 other representatives vote on the bill, or even legislate on the subject in the way such measures customarily are debated, amended, and then rejected or approved.

We don't like the wage-hour bill as it is now written. We think it would be better for Congress to fix labor standards than to delegate that power to a commission. But so long as the bill is bottled up in the rules committee there can't be any wage-hour consideration at all. Thus far no congressman whom we have heard of—certainly not one of these nine—has had the political courage to say publicly that there should be no legislation to stop the sweatshop exploitation that is undermining the living standards and buying power of the American wage earners.

Once it gets out on the House floor, this bill can be amended and improved by the orderly democratic processes. But some elected "representatives" of the people seem to be afraid to let representative government function.

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Columbus, Ga., News Record
November 29, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill Denounced as Purely a Political Measure to Get Negro Votes in the North

IN the discussion of the pending anti-lynching bill in the United States senate, Senator Bankhead asked Senator Smith, of Alabama:

"In the opinion of the senator from South Carolina, how many votes would this bill get if negroes were not voters?"

Senator Smith's reply to this question, and the subsequent remarks, follow, as reported by the Congressional Record:

Mr. SMITH. Not one. The Senator from Alabama has hit the nail on the head; and yet, to the shame of this great body, that has helped demonstrate to a doubtful world that democraracy is possible, that a dual form of government, collectivism where indicated and individualism where indicated is practicable, certain long-haired men and short-haired women who never assumed the real responsibilities of life, but are now attempting to perpetrate such a dastardly thing as this, charge us whose good name is jepoardized with delaying legislation; in other words, they would let this brand be placed on us in order to get a few Harlem votes.

So far as I am concerned, I represent, in part, the little storm center of the United States, little South Carolina, that passed the Nullification Act single-handed and alone, and then seceded. I do not apologize for either act, because it showed the grit of those from whom I descended. The same courage is in us now. Nothing is done in malice, but our self-respect is touched for the dirty thing of getting votes—and getting them from where and from whom? I imagine those who are trying to get them are about on par with those from whom they would be obtained. Any man or set of men that will stoop so low as this are no higher than the source from which they hope to draw their political strength. They are not going to get away with it.

Against my own family a crime was committeed that would inflame the heart of any man. I saw a father-in-law 80 years old shot to death, his son shot to death, that son's bride of 8 months shot to death, and a poor, young negro, who had belonged to certain members of my family, who attempted to defend this defenseless household, had his throat cut. Yet I and those of us whose blood and the sanctity of whose homes were jeopardized believed in letting the law take its course.

I invite the author of this bill to go and stay where we stay, surrounded by the conditions that surround us, and which has surrounded us since the day of the reconstruction. If he would do that, in place of trying to condemn us, were he to know as I know, and as every other southerner knows, the instigation for these outbreaks of lawlessness, if he had a drop of decency in him he would take off his hat in honor of the South emerging as it has emerged from the more prevalent perpetration of this deed.

You may call it 'humanitarianism"; but have you no respect for our officers, have you no respect for us?

Mr. President, I said I was not going to make a speech, and I am not. I am simply serving notice that I am going to do everything within my power to keep this iniquitous and unjust stigma from being placed on my section of the country. What galls me more than anything else is that it comes from the so-called Democratic Party, which we have loved and which, in the dark days of reconstruction, was our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, a fact which made me feel kindly toward old Tammany. I shall never be able to pay my debt of obligation to that organization which stood between us and the death of our civilization.

Senators stand here and quote the Constitution. What is the Constitution to a man who is hunting votes? What does it amount to with him? I can call a polecat a geranium, but that does not make him any less a polecat. You may call this humanitarianism, but it is no less a vote-getting scheme. We all know that. If a certain distinguished Senator were not dead, but was still in this body, I should like to quote what he said when I remonstrated with him about the injection into this body of a similar bill.

No one knows or can know how we of the South feel about this thing. Mark my prediction: If this bill passes and becomes a law through the Supreme Court declaring its constitutional, you will have injected a rift into the ranks of the so-called Democratic Party that all the blandishments of the next generation will never heal.

Mr. President, I wonder sometimes what is the purpose of the treatment being accorded the South. The two-thirds rule in national conventions was abolished and we were eliminated from any participation in the naming of a President. You are about to pass, and perhaps will pass, an hours-and-wages bill which, in the recrudescent state of my section, will crucify it. Now you come along and say, "You are not competent to protect your prisoners"; and so the great purified, sublimated, glorified, crime-ridden New York and her collaborating State, those two peaks of morality and of political and social purity, must not only shed their light on poor benighted South Carolina and the rest of the South, but must send their gifted peace officers down there to help us eliminate lynching and promote racketeering. (Laughter)

Mr. President, I am taking up the time of another southerner.

Mr. OVERTON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. SMITH. Yes; I yield.

Mr. OVERTON. The Senator has lived all of his yeasr in the South. The ostensible purpose of this bill is to protect the negro from the crimes that are committed upon him by the people of the South. I desire to ask the Senator, what is the attitude of the South toward the negro race—whether the South is not the best friend of the negro race that is found in any section?

Mr. SMITH. O Mr. President, that goes without saying. As a baby boy I was nursed in the arms of a negro woman, whom I loved as devotedly as was possible. Then, later on, old Uncle Bill, who lived to be 103 years old, was my shelter in the time of storm. Many a time my father would lead me around behind the house, where there was an old privet bush that I have hated from that day until this. It grew just the right length of sprouts to "teach the young idea how to shoot." He would take me around behind the house in order to better the condition of my soul and morals by the application of the hickory; and old Uncle Bill whom my father revered and respected more than he did any other man, would just walk up without a word and deliver me from the hand of the slayer. Oh, how I loved him with devotion.

The South knows the negro, and knows his limitations. I state before this body—and I dare any of you to go down and investigate, that since the Supreme Court has declared that in certain cases involving Federal jurisdiction negroes must be on the jury, when the negroes themselves have a case they will take you aside and say, "Do, for God's sake, get me the best white men you can on the jury." Is it not so?

Down in the section from which we come the negroes are treated as justly, and more understandingly, than by these gentlemen up North. We do not call them "mister" and "mistress,' because they have been accustomed to call us "marster" and "mistress." We do not take them into fellowshin with because it is dangerous. You know it. I know it. But give the negro a school to himself, a church to himself, and treat him fairly, and the relation between the races has grown more amicable as the years have gone by. Pass this bill, and you will be responsible for the consequences.

Mr. President, you are about to put us in this position: Here is the party to which we have given allegiance and for which we have suffered. Though defeat after defeat came, we still were loyal to the principles of democracy. You are about to put us in the position: Here is the party to which we have given allegiance and for which we have suffered. Though defeat after defeat came, we still were loyal to the principles of democracy. You are about to put us in the position that was described by the negro preacher who had more knowledge of the sound of words than he did of their meaning. He said to his congregation, "There air but two roads. One leads 'way up to perdition and the other 'way down to degradation." A negro in the congregation said, "Say that again, parson." He said, "I said, there air but two roads. One leads 'way up to perdition and the other one 'way down to degradation." The negro said, "My God! If dat be true, dis nigger takes to the woods!" (Laughter.)

Here in the home of our friends, so-called, we are threatened with the most humiliating expression of the other part of the country that ever was conceived in the heart of man. Why, it was born in the heat and passion just subsequent to the Civil War.

I wonder if the Senate is going to pass this South-baiting, South-humiliating measure. I wonder if it is. If we who love the Constitution and love fair play and decency, whether we are Southerners or not, can prevent it, the bill will not pass before the time arrives for another election and calling together of Congress.

Albany Decatur, Ala. Daily
December 4, 1937

Negro View

Much has been written and said about the propored federal anti-lynching bill and before the bill is permitted to become law a great

...needed for the best interest of the negro race. I think your editorial is one of the best I have ever read. I wish I had a way for that editorial to get in every paper—white and negro—in this country. I said in a speech in Alabama last week, that the passage of the so-called anti-lynching bill will be the greatest menace to real American principles ever enacted. It will breed more race strife than anything that has happened in the U. S. since the Civil War. It was proposed for no other purpose, than to secure the votes of negroes who live in states above the Mason and Dixon line, and only to help politically, men who have not one half as much real good-will for the advancement of the negro race as do men who live in the South. In fact the Southern man holds sentiments for the advancement of the negro far superior to many who live in the North. Lynching is decreasing annually, so much so, that all Southern people are helping to wipe it out. But, let Congress pass a national anti-lynching bill, and show that the North is trying to 'whip the South' in line, you will see more race strife than ever before.'

Lakeland, Ga., News
November 25, 1937

Boake Carter, famous radio news commentator, said in a recent broadcast that only the South could solve its lynch problem, and that the Federal Government had no business to interfere in such a situation. Lanier county, without any lynchings, without any gangdom, without any labor violence and without any farm strikes, certainly looks like God's country. But, what of Senator Wagner, of New York, trying so desparately to jam the anti-lynching blll through the Upper House at this most critical time? We admire the Senator, but we feel that at this particular time he is proving false to his great responsibility as one of the New Deal stalwarts. Perhaps he

structive to help solve the gang murders, under world lawlessness and labor violence which occurs so frequently in his own great section.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
November 21, 1937

Honor and Lynching

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I am addressing this letter to Southern white women because as woman to woman we know and understand each other's problems generally.

There is a problem being discussed in the extra session of our Congress at this time which affects Southern white women and Negroes most seriously.

You are aware that the anti-lynching bill has come up for consideration and you know what is happening.

While this is not the first time such bills have been offered to Congress for passage (all previous ones failed), I feel that the responsibility of this bill rests more heavily on the shoulders of Southern white women than any of the others.

The majority of the Southern senators are opposing the bill and are determined to defeat it. Why? Is it because they feel the only way to assure protection to your womanhood and honor is by mob violence and the lynching of black men?

Whether the crime of assault and rape on white women is real or imaginary, they seem willing to let the mob have its victim. The passage of the antilynching bill would wipe out this sacrifice of human blood and make the South safe for white women.

A Federal law would give every criminal proper protection and trial to prove himself innocent or guilty, and thereby eliminate murder by hysterical mobs.

How many of the thousands of black lynch victims were ever proven guilty? Is it necessary that the protection of your honor be continued by human sacrifice upon the altar of hatred and prejudice? Do not women of the entire world look upon you and wonder why you require such sacrifice?

Shall this un-American custom go on through the years unrestrained, and will your men continue to tell the world by their actions that they are too weak and inadequate to give you needed protection except by mob violence and lynching of black men? Will you continue to accept such protection or will you rise up in your might and right and demand that your senators now filibustering and obstructing justice, shall cease making spectacles of themselves and pass this bill which will give the right of fair trial to every man accused of crime against your honor?

A NEGRO WOMAN.

New York, N. Y.

Birmingham, Ala. News
November 21, 1937

CURRENT BATTLE OLD HISTORY HERE

Similar Bill Up Before U. S. Congress Page Lifted From State's "Dark" Era

BY RALPH HURST
Birmingham News Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The anti-lynching bill over which the special session of Congress is now engaged in mighty struggle, is a page lifted from the dark days of a Reconstruction Legislature in Alabama.

The Legislature of 1868, composed largely of Negroes and carpetbaggers, wrote such a law into the code of Alabama with the same sort of provisions as that of the bill now before Congress.

This Alabama measure, which may be found on Page 452 of the General Acts of 1868, was later repealed along with most of the other reconstruction legislation. But before it was repealed, it was amended to exempt Dale County.

While the bill before Congress is designed to court the Negro vote of the North and East, the Alabama act of 1868 was designed to further impress the stamp of the conqueror upon the South.

Like the bill which now has the Democratic party split in Congress, Alabama's anti-lynch bill provided that the county in which the lynching occurred should pay to the next of kin of the victim the sum of $5,000. It went further, however, and provided a payment of $1,000 for a person beaten or assaulted.

Also like the proposed federal bill, it provided no payment would be required if convictions of the lynchers were obtained.

As written into law in Alabama, it provided:

AN ACT

To suppress murder, lynching and assaults and batteries.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Alabama, That whenever in any county of this state, any person shall be assassinated or murdered by any outlaw, or person or persons in disguise, or mob or for past or present party affiliation or political opinion, the widow or husband of such person so murdered or assassinated, the next of kin of such person, shall be entitled to recover of the county in which such murder or assassination occurred, the sum of $5,000 as damages for such murder or assassination, to be distributed among them according to the laws of Alabama, regulating the distribution of the estates of intestate decedents.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That said damages allowed in Section 1 of this act shall be recoverable in the following manner: The claimants shall, after the expiration of six months from the murder or assassination aforesaid, bring an action in the Circuit Court of the proper county, by summons and complaint against the county, alleging the murder or assassination of such person in said county by an outlaw, or person or persons in disguise, riot or mob, and that it was done at least six months before the commencement of the suit. The subsequent proceedings shall be according to the laws of the state and rules of practice in suits between individuals.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That if the issue shall be found for the claimants, judgment shall be rendered in their favor for $5,000 and costs against the county. If found for the county, the costs shall be adjourned against the claimants. When judgment is rendered for the claimants, the court shall enter, with the judgment, an order to the Court of County Commissioners of said county, notice of which shall be issued by the clerk of the court, and served on the probate judge by the sheriff, commanding said Court of County Commissioners within 20 days, to assess on the state tax of said county such a per centum as will realize the amount of said judgment for damages and costs.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, that the assessment so made shall be delivered to the tax collector or the county, who shall collect such tax, in the same manner as the state tax is collected, within 60 days.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, that for failure to perform the duties herein required, without good excuse, either by the Commissioners Court or the tax collector, sheriff, or clerk of the Circuit Court, each member of the court, and the tax collector, sheriff or said clerk so in default, shall be liable to a fine, on indictment, of $1,000, and in default payment, to imprisonment in the county jail for 12 months for every 30 days of such neglect or failure.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, that whenever, in any county in this state, any person shall be whipped or beaten or wounded upon accusation, real or pretended, or to force such person to confess himself guilty of any offense, or to make any disclosure, or to consent to leave the neighborhood, county or state, or for any cause, by two or more persons unknown or in disguise, shall be entitled to recover of the county in which such offense occur, the sum of $1,000 as damages therefor, by suit in the Circuit Court of said county, to be conducted in the same manners as prescribed in this act for the conduct of suits and the enforcement of the judgment. The cause of action shall survive the legal representatives of the injured person, and the damages when collected shall, in no way be liable to the debts of the injured party, but shall be distributed as in cases of intestacy.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, that if at any time before the payment of the money recoverable under any section of this act, the offenders shall be apprehended and duly tried, convicted and punished, such conviction and punishment shall operate as satisfaction of the judgment in the particular case. If the offenders herein described shall be apprehended and undergoing trial for the offense about which the suit for damages is brought, the court, or in vacation, the presiding judge of the court, may, on a proper showing, suspend proceedings in the suit for damages until the result of the trial of the apprehended person shall be known.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, that it shall be the duty of the county solicitor to prosecute the suit for the claimants, which may be brought in the name of the widow, husband or any one of the heirs, though a minor, for which he shall receive 10 per centum of the amount recovered.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, that the laws of the state as to principals and accessories shall govern in all suits brought under the provisions of this act.

Sec. 10. Be it further enacted, that if those entitled to sue as provided in this act will not do so in 12 months from the time they are allowed to commence suit, then the solicitor shall commence and prosecute the suit in the name of the State vs. the County, and the amount recovered shall be appropriated for the benefit of the asylum for the insane, the deaf and dumb and the blind in the state, and to each the same amount.

Sec. 11. Be it further enacted, that this act shall take effect and be in full force immediately on and after its passage, any laws or parts of laws in the statutes of this state to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved. Dec. 28. 1868.

Montgomery Ala Journal
November 20, 1937

SPOKEN FROM THE HEART

It goes without saying that every informed man and woman in Alabama is opposed to the pending anti-lynching bill because of the sectional spirit in which it is drawn, because of its dishonest discriminations, and because it is an inconstitutional proposal for dealing with a subject that the South knows how to handle. But there are many ways in which that opposition can be expressed. In the midst of the abuse, recrimination and ill feeling which have characterized the debate in the United States senate this week, the calm, earnest and soft-spoken words of Alabama's junior senator, Mrs. Dixie Graves, may well prove more effective in convincing Northern senators of the iniquity and injustice of the proposal than hours of heated denunciation. Mrs. Graves spoke from the heart, and people always listen to that kind of utterance.

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Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
November 23, 1937

Wounded in the House of Her Friends

By Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, President Oglethorpe University.

DISPATCHES from Washington indicate that the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill will be passed by the Congress. This bill provides that the Federal Government shall have power to punish officers and local governments in whose territory of administration lynchings may take place. **It is aimed directly at the South,** and is of the same general type as other such bills which have been proposed in the past. It is just another form of Force Bill and of carpetbag government.

The most illuminating of its features is the fact that it is proposed, and that it will probably be enacted, **by a Democratic administration, put into power by the South,** and depending **for its further existence upon the South,** and that Democratic representatives in Congress have allowed such a bill to come to the point of enactment.

It is still stranger that Southern voters, having seen the two-thirds' rule abrogated at the Philadelphia convention, and having been warned that the policy of the present leaders of the Democratic party does not include the protection of minorities, should continue complacently to float toward their Niagara.

In some instances our leaders even supported the bill to pack the Supreme Court, **its effect being to substitute a majority vote of the populace for constitutional protection of the rights of minorities.**

The lynching bill now emphasizes the folly of those Southern voters who are willing to impair the powers of the Supreme Court of the United States by approving the recent proposal which would deprive the South of its sole remaining protection against the tyranny of an unkindly majority.

But men should be pitied, rather than blamed for being willing to sell their souls for a handout. They have been doing it from the beginning and they will doubtless do it until the end. Politicians know that principle well and use it whenever necessary to effectuate their purposes.

There are exceptions. For example, Senator George serves his constituency well in saying: "I don't think there will be any prolonged fight against the bill. It might be that an organized fight will be made, but, after reasonable debate, I think it will come to a final vote. Of course, I am unalterably opposed to the bill. I AM SATISFIED IT IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL and that no court—not even a 'reorganized' court—can uphold it."

In other words, the only safeguard for the South in this matter, as in many similar matters in the past, and as in many similar matters in the future, has been, is, and will be, the Supreme Court guaranteeing a rigid administration of the Constitution of the United States **which was written and intended to protect minor groups in their rights against the senseless manias of popular majorities.**

As I have pointed out many times before, America is in the midst of a vast conflict of opinion **in which the republic is being supplanted by a democracy. In a republic,** government is conducted by the upper half, the responsible half, the intelligent half, the educated half, the property-holding half. In a democracy, it is, for all practical purposes, conducted by the lower half, the irresponsible half, the unintelligent half, the uneducated half.

Former Governor Landon well says: **"The challenge to our country today is that citizens lay aside all personal, factional and party prejudices and join in the fight to preserve the republic."**

Ft. Myers, Fla., News Press
November 22, 1937

A FUTILE FILIBUSTER

The anti-lynching bill with which the senate is fiddling is a sorry piece of legislation but we doubt that it is worth the opposition being lavished upon it. To brand it for what it is and to register indignant dissent a filibuster in other times would be fully justified. But at this particular moment the country faces an economic crisis of such serious implications as to demand the undivided attention of congress. Yet here they are emoting crocodile tears over a matter that will probably never have more than academic consequences.

For this miserable deviation from a paramount public duty both proponents and foes of the lynch bill must share responsibility. Backers of the measure, whose purposes are concerned solely with their own political fortunes, maneuvered it into position where the senate would have to deal with it as the first order of business in the special session. As they knew full well that it would encounter a long drawn filibuster they stand guilty of starting a ruckus that could just as well go over until another time.

For their part opponents of the bill convict themselves of wasting time in futility because they concede that eventually it must pass. They are absolutely right, and the country agrees with them, in denouncing the move to bring it up at this time. But there was nothing they could do except denounce. Under the senate rules they couldn't stop it from coming up; all they could do was decide whether to indulge themselves in gestures of dissent or to make a virtue of necessity and let it pass.

Unwisely they chose to gesticulate and by doing so became parties to a disheartening spectacle of legislative impotency in a time of national peril. They cannot beat the bill and do not expect to. The sole object of their dilatory tactics and rafter shaking oratory is to make a record of fervid adherence to public sentiment in the South. That they share this sentiment and will do what they can to uphold it goes without saying. They don't have to fill page upon page of the Congressional Record with proof. Their constituents in the South will concede that and honor them for it. But the modern South, as vitally affected as any other section by the ebb and flow of national prosperity, will not grant the wisdom of delaying an attack on a common foe while going through the motions of fighting a lost cause.

It would be more seemly if our senators would say, "You have the votes to impose this affront on the people of the South and you are doing it for base political motives. We can delay you but we can't stop you. And so, in the patriotic interest of getting on with other things, we shall bow to the inevitable while serving notice that on more opportune occasion we shall return to this fight and seek to mitigate the evil which you are hell bent to commit."

The South does not dishonor a heroic surrender. If victory were possible and if a filibuster could be pressed without endangering the national well-being, we should be foremost in egging our senators on. But they cannot win. They are outnumbered, the parliamentary cards are stacked against them and they are merely wasting valuable time.

Baton Rouge, La., Times
November 20, 1937

SOUTH AND ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

We confess to considerable satisfaction at the denunciation which the southern senators have heaped upon Senator Wagner of New York and few of the northern leaders in whom the spirit of Thaddeus Stevens and General Butler still live.

It is certainly the irony of fate that the South, after passing through reconstruction, and Republican rule, for 50 years and through all these years fighting off this same anti-lynch law, shoud find itself facing its greatest threat under a so-called Democratic administration completely dominated by a Democratic president. Secretly this Democratic president has given aid and comfort to those who are trying to fasten this offensive law upon the South. Franklin Roosevelt dearly loves the negro minorities in the
than the negro lynchings in the
was being done about it. The
did not propose to move against
leaders in the North. Only Thurs-
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Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
November 25, 1937

Lynching on the Way Out

The anti-lynching bill has excited once more a lot of discussion pro and con on that subject. Reliable information on the historic record is of timely interest, therefore, and the enterprising Charlotte Observer has dug up the following facts:

The most authentic and available data shows that 3,679 persons have been lynched in this country since 1882 and that of this number 700 were white and 2,979 were negroes.

No lynchings have ever occurred, according to these records, in the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, and 10 other States have records that are almost clean. Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin.

Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings (72.2 per cent) have occurred in eight States. Mississippi tops the list with 485 recorded lynchings. In order, come Georgia, 469; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241; Tennessee, 210.

Far more negroes than whites have been lynched in the South, but in the West and Mid-West the situation is reversed.

Negroes comprised only 12.4 per cent of the 257 individuals lynched in 17 States, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Montana Nebraska, Nevada New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. It is probable that many of the "white" victims in these States were Mexicans or Indians.

The six years, 1882-1887 inclusive, witnessed 752 lynchings, or 20.4 of the 55-year total. The 15-year period, 1922-1937 inclusive, brought only 304 such crimes, or 8.2 per cent of the total. The "high" year was 1883, with 158 lynchings; and 1933 was "low" with only eight. Nine lynchings were recorded in 1936, and seven through Sept. 30, 1937. All the victims in the last two years were negroes, and the 16 lynchings occurred in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The South Atlantic and South Central States account for 88.3 per cent, of all recorded lynchings.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
November 24, 1937

The Great Game Of Politics

By FRANK R. KENT

Caught In The Middle

WITH THE report of the Senate committee, the new proposal for crop control confusedly takes the place of the so-called anti-lynching bill, which for a solid week has held the attention of the Senate to the exclusion of all else.

KENT

However, the latter is only temporarily relegated to the rear, not by any means disposed of. Soon or late this session it will return for final action. There is slight doubt that in the end it will pass because behind it is the covert but none the less solid weight of the Administration. This, coupled with Republican support, is enough to enact the bill over the desperate opposition of the Southern Democrats. At least, so it is generally believed.

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FROM THE political standpoint, this measure is probably the most pregnant of any which will be considered this session. Despite the humanitarian professions of its champions, everybody knows that the driving power of the fight for it is generated by the great Negro vote in the big debatable States north of the Mason and Dixon line and stretching from Connecticut to Michigan.

This is true of Republicans as it is of Democrats and it is time the truth were told about it. Everybody is opposed to lynching. No one defends it and no decent man, in politics or out, condones it. But this bill does not make lynching any more of a crime than it is now and will not diminish the number of lynchings.

What it does is give the Federal Government power to investigate the conduct of county officials in the prosecution of lynching and if deemed inadequate to impose prison penalties and fines not only upon individuals, but upon the local government unit.

Offensive To South

WHOLLY ASIDE from the question of lynching, it is easy to see how intensely offensive a proposal of this sort is to Southern Democrats, or, in fact, to Democrats of any section who still believe in the sovereignty of the States and oppose the imposition upon them of the Federal authority.

Clearly, if the Federal Government can go into the States to examine their conduct of criminal proceedings, it can go into them to examine their conduct of elections, which unquestionably would be the next step. Southern Democrats see in this proposal another force bill and the thing that stirs their indignation to white heat is that it should be a Democratic Administration, not a Republican one, to supply the votes by which the bill will go through—if it does.

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ACTUALLY, Mr. Roosevelt and his political strategists are in an unhappy position about this proposal. Last year they very successfully played both ends against the middle. By a skillful and carefully planned campaign, aided by relief money and Federal patronage, the succeeded in taking away from the Republican party its basic asset—to wit, some two million Negro votes in a dozen big debatable States.

At the same time they held in line the solid South, where the Negro does not vote and which is solidly Democratic largely because of racial prejudice.

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Caught In Middle

NOW, HOWEVER, the price has got to be paid. The anti-lynching bill must have Administration support to pass. Should it fail, the Republicans in the next campaign will be given exactly the argument they need to recapture the Negro vote.

They will charge—and justly—that the Administration took their votes and then "sold them out." The Negro newspapers all over the country which supported Mr. Roosevelt in 1936 look to him now to pass this bill. They unquestionably will blame him if it fails.

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ON THE OTHER HAND, if the bill is forced through, it will widen and deepen the Democratic split. However furtively it is done, Southern Senators will know that the bill could not have been passed but for the Roosevelt-Farley organization. It will intensify feeling against the President, justify Southern opposition to his policies and greatly diminish his 1940 chances either of renominating himself or picking his successor. The situation in which the White House politicians find themselves in the inevitable result of being too slick. They are now caught in the middle, where instead of getting support from both sides they may alienate both.

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Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
November 23, 1937

The Filibuster

The Southern senators have been doing a grand job of filibustering against the federal anti-lynching bill, although to date the star role was played by Alabama's own Dixie Graves.

Mrs. Graves stopped a turbulent senate session long enough to reveal that charm so well known to Alabamians and the senate, at first amazed; then paid her an unusual compliment by applauding as she returned to her seat.

As The Daily views the situation the only thing the Southern filibuster has lacked is a display of determination which would have convinced senate leaders that the filibuster will continue until the offensive bill is withdrawn.

As things stand now, the leaders seem content to let the Southerners talk as long as they wish, confident that the bill will be passed ultimately.

The farm measure had a preferred status on the senate calendar and for this session takes precedence over the anti-lynching bill. Therefore when the farm bill was ready for discussion it displaced automatically all anti-lynching debate.

No one, of course, knows how long it will take the senate to dispose of the farm measure, but when that legislation is enacted into law the senate will find itself renewing debate on the anti-lynching bill.

It is then that the real filibuster should be conducted.

There are other and important measures requiring the attention of congress but if leaders are so bull-headed they will not shelve the anti-lynching bill long enough to permit congress to dispose of the other parts of the president's legislative program then, let us be just as bull-headed.

Let's get the floor and serve notice on the self-seeking politicians that we intend to keep the floor as long as congress stays in session if necessary to prevent the passage of the nefarious anti-lynching measure.

It would not be the first time that the rights of minorities have been protected by such tactics.

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Kingsport, Tenn. Times
November 29, 1937

WHY NOT AN ANTI-GANG LAW?

It is true that the majority of the lynchings occur in the southern states. It is likewise true that the majority of the gang and racketeer atrocities occur in the northern states. There are far more gangster murders and kidnapings than there are lynchings, and the former are more despicable than the latter.

Since determined efforts are being made to force a federal anti-lynching law down the throat of congress, why not put through a federal anti-racketeer law at the same time?

In other words, if we are going to begin invading state's rights to enforce certain federal laws, then we should at least be consistent in the matter.

The proposed federal anti-lynching law would penalize the innocent for the acts of the guilty. It would fine the innocent taxpayers of a county because of the occurrence of a lynching in that county—an occurrence in which more than 99 per cent of these taxpayers would, of course, have no part, and which they would deeply deplore. The federal anti-lynching law would also persecute state and county officers of the law.

The legislation had its inception with Senator Wagner of New York. Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, and other northern and middlewestern senators. Obviously the act is purposed largely as an insult to the south. It is an act that is neither just nor fair, and it is legislation which is a far departure from constitution-embodied states' rights.

These northern senators tell us that if a negro who has criminally assaulted and murdered a white woman is executed by a mob the federal government should enter the state and take a hand in the matter. They tell us that under such circumstances the county in which the crime occurred should be punished by a seyere fine.

If a gang of foreign hoodlums takes an innocent man out and murders him in cold blood, however, that is another matter. Just where do they make the distinction? Why not place a heavy fine on any county in which a gang crime occurs, and persecute the officers of the law in that county?

For instance in Detroit last week a group of gangsters coolly walked into a restaurant and shot to death a man who had displeased them. Neither were the gangsters careful about other lives. With utter disregard of others in the restaurant they fired a fusilade of 20 shots. Four innocent people in the restaurant fell wounded—and one, at least, of them was desperately wounded. A short time before, this same mob of gangsters had murdered an innocent doorman with a bomb under the hood of an automobile in an effort to slay the man whom they had marked for assassination.

The same papers which told of the restaurant gang-shooting told of a man being killed by gangsters in Chicago. He was shot to death in the presence of his wife on a busy Chicago street in mid-day!

Why not legislate a federal law to cover this sort of thing? Why not impose a heavy fine on the county in which Detroit is located and on Cooke county, Illinois? Many gang atrocities have occurred in Indianapolis; would Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, who is a co-author of the anti-lynching bill, be willing to support a federal anti-gang law? We do not think so.

They charge that the southern states have not made sincere efforts to wipe out lynch law. Have the northern states made sincere efforts to abolish the racketerring curse? Of course not. The interlinking of dirty politics with racketeering and gang activities in many northern cities and northern counties is one of the jokes of the country.

We are inclined to the modest opinion that it would be well for the northern legislators to clean their own hearths before heaping insulting legislation upon their southern neighbors. We cannot help clinging to a belief in the rights and the sovereignty of the individual states, and the old rule of fair play

Gainesville, Ga., Eagle
November 25, 1937

LYNCHING THE LAW

WASHINGTON has just completed another illustration of politics versus the people, with the same inevitable result—the people lost. A fool filibuster was resorted to to keep the anti-lynching bill from coming to a vote and was halted only after agreement to postpone action in favor of crop control legislation.

For a Southern newspaper to favor an anti-lynching bill may be heresy, especially with the Southern Congressmen tearing their political shirts in opposition. The facts, however, permit of no other position, unless the Southern newspaper wishes to join the cohorts of the politicos and fight the people.

The question of the Southern officers—sheriffs and deputies, chiefs and policemen—being able to cope with the situation is a farce. When a heinous crime is committed, these officials, although inwardly honest and anxious to keep their oath of office inviolate, are helpless to stem the influence and pressure brought to bear against them. After all, sheriffs and police must eat, sleep and wear clothes, and the life of a man more than likely doomed to be demanded by law, seems a small stake against such odds.

The South has long been stigmatized in other sections because of its numerous lynchings. The only state where any marked headway has been made against the mob rule has been in Virginia, where the law has some teeth in it. It follows that the only way any progress will be made in the remaining states is by a similar statute, but it goes without saying that such will not be passed. It lies in the lap of Congress, but Congress' lap is too eager to be filled with pork to consider human lives.

It is a sorry commentary on this so-called Twentieth Century civilization, this do-nothingness in Washington. For it proves that the law can be lynched by legislators as well as an individual by mobsters.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., EXPRESS
NOV. 16, 1937 D2

PUBLIC SENTIMENT FOR ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION

Almost immediately after a Mississippi mob had seized two Negroes—during their trial at Tupelo for killing a white man—and burned them to death with gasoline blow-torches, thereby outraging justice and humanity, the House at Washington passed the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill by a large majority (277 to 119). Many Southern Democrats voted for the measure, which was almost identical with the Dyer Bill—introduced in 1918, but never duly considered.

Had any Southerner supported the Missouri Representative's proposal at that time, probably he would have committed political suicide. The vote in the House last April indicated the remarkable change in sentiment toward lynch-murder which has taken place within the past few years. At last the civic conscience is waking up and demanding that the infamy be eradicated.

On the other hand, in this regard "State rights" sentiment appears to be dying out. Consequently, a Federal law against lynching now is inevitable. Though the Senate succeeded in sidetracking the highly controversial measure last summer, that was merely a parliamentary coup. The bill is not dead; it has preferred standing on the calendar and probably will come before the special session just convened. In any event it will be considered early next year.

His survey of senatorial sentiment has convinced Bertram Benedict, political analyst for Editorial Research Reports, that the bill will pass. That conclusion may derive strong support from the American Institute of Public Opinion poll. To the question, "Should Congress pass a law which would make lynching a Federal crime?" 72 per cent of the citizens questioned answered, "Yes".

Perhaps the most surprising response came from the South, where almost all the lynchings occur and where State rights sentiment is traditionally strong: Among the Southerners questioned—and they were chosen scientifically to represent a cross-section of the entire electorate—57 per cent voted "Yes".

Let those Southern Senators who fear to support legislation against mob crimes, lest their constituents retire them at the next election, consider that showing. Even in the "deep South," it appears, only four citizens in every 10 questioned oppose Federal action against lynching. The other six—an impressive majority—would like to see G-men put immediately on the mob's trail.

Dr. George Gallup, the Institute's director, concludes that the educational work which newspapers, colleges, churches and special organizations have been doing these many years past is becoming effective. A considerable share of the credit for the change in public sentiment belongs to the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has gathered convincing data showing the futility of expecting State and local authorities to deal effectively with lynch-murder.

In that connection consider the mes-

...age from Representative Hatton W. Sumners (Texas), warning Governor White of Mississippi that should his State fail to punish the savage Duck Hill murderers, Southern Congressmen would be handicapped in their efforts to keep lynching out of Federal jurisdiction. Still, there is no record of any serious official effort to arrest the persons responsible for that atrocity.

Recognizing the futility of expecting State action, San Antonio Express supported the Dyer Bill when it was introduced. Then Texas was frequently a leader in the annual records compiled by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. For example, in 1922 this State reported 18 lynchings.

If conditions have improved, education plus official alertness, courage and competency deserve the credit. The Federal law now proposed would strengthen those and related forces making for common justice and civic decency.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
November 30, 1937

House Condemns Anti-Lynch Bill

A resolution charging that strikes, rioting and similar disorders in the industrial centers of the north and east have caused more loss of life "than all the lynchings in the south," was adopted unanimously Monday by the State House of Representatives and sent to the Senate.

Representatives Harrell of Brooks, Cochran of Thomas, Coleman of Lowndes and Dollar of Grady, in offering the resolution, asked that Goergia's United States senators and congressmen be "commended" for "their valiant opposition" to the Wagner anti-lynch bill in Congress.

It charged the anti-lynch bill "is manifestly unjust, unfair and would work an oppressive burden upon the entire south."

The resolution urges that the General Assembly suggest to the Georgia congressional delegation that "should this bill be enacted into law the losses of life of strikers and peace officers be compensated in the same manner as in cases of lynchings and that the county authorities be charged with liability and subject to the same penalties."

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
November 26, 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

Senator Dixie Bibb Graves, of Alabama, opposed the anti-lynching legislation and he made some rather strong arguments in favor of her contention. She insisted that public opinion and law enforcement are gradually decreasing the number of acts of mob violence and there is reason for her belief that the next few years will probably see ever further reduction in them.

In 1926 there were 30 lynchings. In 1936 there were 13. Of course, that was thirteen too many, but the reduction shows the trend of the times.

The number of lynchings has fluctuated from year to year but there has been a slow but certain reduction in them.

For Congress to enact the proposed bill would doubtless cause such a wave of resentment in the South, where most of the lynchings occur, to bring about a change in public sentiment which might result in a feeling that, since Congress has taken over the job of preventing lynchings, the individual communities may as well let things ride.

There is grave injustice to the South in the proposed measure and it is to be hoped that Congress will refuse to enact it.

Huntington, Tenn., Republican
November 26, 1937

The Anti-lynching bill now before Congress should be defeated. It is ...icious and will supplant state sov...reignty in the administration of certain laws. It is a rare case that the party lynched does not deserve what the culprit deserved without the ex...pense of a trial. In Texas it was the cure for horse stealing, in California it functioned for justice when the judges became corrupt or touched and now it is hardly ever employed except in an unmentionable crime. The officers in the South now protect their prisoners in most insances and when they cannot the courts go after the lynchers.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 27, 1937

BID FOR NEGRO VOTE

From the Early County News.

Probably as a bid for votes among the thickly populated Negro sections of the North and East, advocates of the anti-lynching bill brought that measure up in the senate last week. This caused a furore among Southern congressmen, several of whom filibustered against the bill throughout the week. Although it is evident it will pass when brought to a vote, it is generally conceded that the bill is unconstitutional.

Savannah, Ga., News
November 26, 1937

Lynchings Gradually Decrease

In a Senate speech opposing the anti-lynching bill, U. S. Senator Dixie Graves of Alabama remarked that state law enforcement and public opinion combined had reduced acts of mob violence by two-thirds in the last ten years and in another five years would end them altogether. It is to be earnestly hoped that her prediction may be fulfilled, but at the present rate of progress an extension of time for final accomplishment may be necessary. Her view is at least a hopeful one.

As to the records, they show that in 1926 there were thirty lynchings in the whole country, while last year there were thirteen. That, of course, was thirteen too many. But the chance for further progress is evident from the fact that in 1932 there were eight lynchings. These figures are to be compared with a total of 231 for 1892, the high point in the nation's history. The number has fluctuated from year to year, but on the whole progress has been steady. It is the really constructive aspect of a problem that is greatly confused by the political cross-currents in which the question has been caught in Washington.

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THE SOUTH AGAIN THE VICTIM OF SECTIONAL GREED, JEALOUSY

More than 70 years ago the south, after four years of heroic struggle, suffered defeat on the field of battle. Chiefly because the north wished to abolish slavery, although the slaves in the south had for the most part come through the hands of northern traders who made vast profits on their commerce in human flesh, the south was forced to her knees.

For half a century afterwards the story of the south was the story of a region struggling out of the damning aftermaths of war.

Chattel slavery of the negro was abolished. But in its place was substituted an economic slavery that, in its blighting effect is worse. In the new slavery, there is no limitation by race. Whites and negroes alike are its victims.

High tariff policies, year by year, bled the southern cotton producer, and the southern consumer, for the benefits of the industrialized regions of the north and east.

Differentials in freight costs have imposed an unfair financial handicap on every southern industry which sought to send its product to market in competition with the products of other regions.

By scores of methods, the south has been held in economic inferiority to the rest of the nation.

Now there is evident a very definite program which, unless it is promptly halted, can result only in still further impoverishment of this section.

* * *

Under the terms of the proposed farm bill which is to be submitted to the senate, the southern cotton producer would be forbidden to raise more than 10,000,000 bales of cotton a year. This is barely enough to meet the requirements of the domestic market and ignores, entirely, the scant remnants that remain of the export cotton market this country once enjoyed.

Worse, is the provision that the southern farmer, forbidden to raise cotton on many of his acres, is to be forbidden to use those acres for raising cattle, hogs or for growing corn.

Still another affront, tentatively approved by the national house of representatives, is the proposal to withhold federal benefit payments from southern farmers who turn to dairying to replace their cotton.

Thus the southern farmer would be legally estopped from all the cash crops open to him on a diversified farming system. Cattle, hogs, corn, dairy herds and all the feeds that can be grown for them, would not be lawful products for the southerner to raise in place of the cotton he is forbidden to grow.

* * *

A measure known as the anti-lynching bill is being forced through congress. The name of the bill is a misnomer. It is actually not so much an effort to halt the crime of lynching, but an effort to take from the states one of their most vital rights, their police power.

Every decent man or woman in the south would gladly welcome anything which would stamp out lynch law. The steady improvement in the lynch record of the south is irrefutable proof of this. According to the Negro Year Book, published at Tuskegee Institute, the average annual total of lynchings had shrunk to 13.6 for the decade ending with 1936, from 103.5 for the decade ending in 1896. This is a greater improvement than that for lynching of white men in the west and other parts of the country.

But this misnamed "anti-lynching" bill does not seek, along intelligent, co-operative lines, to help the south stamp out this most horrible crime. It seeks, rather, to invoke the federal powers to punish local enforcement officers and the entire population, innocent and guilty alike, where a lynching occurs. It even makes it financially alluring for the family survivors of the victim for the lynching to occur.

* * *

The Black-Connery wages and hour bill has been forced out of the house committee and to the floor for action by a petition signed by 218 members, including a number of southerners. While this measure, as now amended, is not as obnoxious as in its original form, it still constitutes a serious threat to industry, especially to industry in the south.

It was conceived with the chief purpose of hobbling southern industry. It would place industry at the mercy of a federal bureaucracy and would give a group of government appointees in Washington the power of life or death over every private manufacturing enterprise in the nation.

With these new specific attacks on the south, there remains still, as the dominating motive of the economic picture, the dark shadow of high tariff, which forces the southern farmer to buy all his supplies in a high, tariff-protected market, while his products, chiefly his cotton, must be sold in open, free trade world markets, in competition with products produced in foreign lands by cheap, coolie labor. Further, the high tariff acts as an effective bar to foreign purchases of American cotton by keeping the goods other nations would sell to this country, away from our ports. It thus holds a protective umbrella over the rapidly increasing foreign production of cotton.

Thus, once again, the south is caught in a vise between the selfish interests of the industrialized east and the jealousies of the agricultural midwest.

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Although the south is the first sufferer, the evil effects from these policies cannot fail to bring distress to the entire nation.

By thus shackling the south, on the farm and in the factory, economically, politically and socially, unemployment will be increased and the average per capita income in this section will be further reduced. Taking acres out of production means taking work away from thousands of agriculturalists. Enactment of the wages and hours bill, virtually a tariff wall between states, means imperiling the jobs of thousands of industrial employes.

The greatest danger to the south lies in its own indifference to the situation. The south holds its own salvation in its hands. It can overcome these handicaps and lift the economic shackles if it will stand united for its own interests and its own rights.

A united south can, in time, teach the whole nation that the problems of this section are peculiar to itself and that the economic measuring rods of other portions of the country cannot, in justice, be applied here.

There must be, however, a united front, not only among the people, but by their representatives in the national congress. The delegations from the different southern states must stand as a unit, forming a bloc determined to defeat policies inimitable to the welfare of this section.

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The new shackles for the south are being forged by a political coalition which bears the name of a party to which, for nearly three-quarters of a century, the south has been unswervingly loyal.

The answer is that the party which now holds the greatest majority in congress of all time, is not the Democratic party whose principles have received the unfaltering support of the south. It is a coalition of political hybrids, masquerading under the name of Democrat and experimenting with strange theories of government that spawn in mentalities totally foreign to southern comprehension.

From the industrial east and from the socialistic west have come the practitioners of strange theories to take the ancient party of the south and distort it to their own weird concept.

From time immemorial, the basic political beliefs of the south have been white supremacy, state's rights and low tariffs. Now the south sees, in shocked surprise, the anti-lynching bill forced upon it, to the utter disregard of rudimentary states rights. It sees the wages and hours bill nearing enactment, with its threat of regimented rule for labor and bureaucratic doom for private industry. It sees its farmers facing immolation, as sacrifices to the agricultural interests of other sections and to the greed of industrialists, and it sees, after years of so-called Democratic government, the strangling high tariffs of the Smoot-Hawley bill still in force.

Worst of all, it sees some of its own duly elected representatives, southern members of congress, not only affiliating with its enemies but aiding, abetting and joining in the enactment of laws which rivet tighter the gyves of economic slavery upon it.

...time has come for the south to realize fully the economic and political strangulation with which it is threatened.

Most important of all, our representatives in congress must awaken to the fact that, under the guise of high-sounding theories, policies are being advanced which, unless blocked, will again make the south the victim of sectional greed and jealousy.

Asheville N. C., Citizen
November 19, 1937

A WELL-INTENTIONED MISTAKE

With most Southerners and with many Northerners resident in the South we are bound to feel that the well-meant federal anti-lynching bill is a mistake. The Senate filibuster as far as we are concerned looks from the sidelines like a rather rough and tumble fight for a worthwhile purpose. No bill of this nature should be acted upon hastily while Congress is just waiting around for its principal legislative program to be shaped up. It should receive the consideration due the major importance of the precedent such a law would set.

This newspaper has always been against lynchings in any form and for any crime. Its record in this respect has ever been clear, and the record of Asheville and Western North Carolina when it comes to lynchings may be pointed out with pride by all the inhabitants of our mountain country. We don't approve of lynching, we don't condone lynching, and if we can help it we are not going to have any lynching. So that is that.

But we also most emphatically are of the opinion that law enforcement is constitutionally and as a matter of practical execution a concern of local government. If local governments have come to the point that they either can't or won't enforce law and order, they had better be abolished in all respects and not in just one particular. The federal government at Washington could not possibly undertake to police the vast expanses of the United States. It quite rightly is horrified by individual acts of lawlessness in any part of its borders. But why, on that account, should it pick gang murders in New York or Chicago, hold-ups in the deserts of the Southwest, or lynchings in the South as its own particular field? One is just as much an act of local lawlessness as the other.

Police power is not within the sphere of the Washington government. If it undertakes such duty not its own it will inevitably weaken the responsibility of local communities in this as it has in other respects. Cities and counties and states will be tempted to stand by and let George do it. Under a system of double accountability such crimes as lynching are far more apt to increase than to diminish.

The fight against lynching must be made along economic and educational lines. Only so can it be combated at the source—not by passing a federal lynch-law that would be a blow to Southern pride, and is bound for that reason alone to add oil to the flames of sectional hard feeling.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
November 22, 1937

Would It Be Wise?"

Making her first speech on the senate floor, Senator Graves of Alabama joined other southern members in an attack on the anti-lynching bill. Declaring that passage of the bill would "strike down the sovereignty of a state," she said, "The states are stamping out this disease. Would it be wise to change to another remedy?"

Rocky Mount N. C. Telegram
December 29, 1937

LYNCHING TOLL THE SAME

Whether the projected anti-lynching law that has attracted so much attention at Washington had anything to do with it or not remains a matter of doubtful certainty, but 1937 saw the same number of persons lynched in the United States as did 1936, according to the Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research.

Five states, all southern, furnished the settings for the lynchings of the eight persons, who were all Negroes. Florida led the list with three, the record shows, Mississippi was next with two, and Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia had one each. The offenses charged against the victims were listed as rape 1, crime against nature and robbery 1, murder 4, and wounding of officer 2.

The part of the report that is cheering and that will give southern congressmen all the more reason for wanting to continue their filibuster against the anti-lynching bill is that in 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, with five of these cases occurring in northern states and 51 in the south.

It cannot be said that the South condones lynching and the records substantiate that. It can be said, however, that the South is interested in eliminating this crime from the records and concrete evidence of efforts to achieve just that may be noted in the comparison of lynchings for the past four years. In 1934 the number was 15; in 1935 it was placed at 20; then, it drops to eight for the past two years. Our own belief is that it will be less than that in 1938, with or without the passage of the anti-lynching measure.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
December 28, 1937

LYNCHING

While Northerners in a bid for the negro vote are trying to foist on the South a federal anti-lynching law, singling out this crime above all others merely as a political measure, the South is continuing to stamp out lynching by its own local efforts.

The record for 1937 compares favorable with that of the previous year. In each year, only eight persons were lynched. And this year, according to the records up to and including Christmas, no less than 77 persons were saved from mobs by law enforcement officers, with 73 of these being negroes. Tennessee's record was marred by only one lynching.

How does that record compare with the record of the North in labor violence. We have not the available figures on the subject, but until figures are cited to prove it not so, we will venture the assertion that more than twice as many persons lost their lives in the North because of the laxity of law enforcement in labor disputes (because of the local political strength of labor unions) than lost their lives in the South because of lack of law enforcement against lynch-bent mobs.

Is not the North seeing the mote in the eye of the South and failing to see the beam in its own eye?

The Herald has an unalterable record for law enforcement, and against lynching, and has in season and out opposed mob rule. Consistently, we oppose mob rule in the North, and in labor disputes, as much as we do in the South, and in high crimes.

The point is, that the South is bettering its record for law and order, the North is allowing its record to become worse. Meanwhile politicians are making capital of what was once a major problem in the South and is now being solved locally, as it should be.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5722

HOUSE AND SENATE CONFEREES PLAN TO REWRITE ACT

Cotton, Corn and Wheat Provisions in Measure Require Major Changes; Housing Program Draws Attack by Republicans.

ANTI-LYNCH BILL SET FOR TOMORROW

Agriculture Legislation Expected To Be Made Ready at Conferences Starting December 28.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(AP) Administration hope of getting a farm bill from the special session of congress was snuffed out today by a decision that the joint conference committee would wait until after Christmas to tackle the job of adjusting differences between house and senate bills.

Committee members agreed, however, to work as speedily as possible after the holiday in order to lay a rewritten farm measure before both houses early in the regular session convening January 3.

Senator Pope, Democrat, Idaho, one of the senate conferees and an author of the senate bill, said experts would begin making an analysis of the two bills at once. The conferees probably will get together about December 28, he added.

Agree on Rice and Tobacco.

"There will be no differences between the conferees on the rice and tobacco sections because these are identical in both bills," Pope said.

"We will have some ironing out to do in the cotton provisions, but I don't think anything will arise there that will break down the conference.

"The corn and wheat sections have some pretty vital differences, but I am hopeful that we will be able to work out a satisfactory compromise."

Chairman Smith, Democrat, South Carolina, of the senate agriculture committee, said he was "disappointed" with two provisions of the bill passed by the senate last night—one preventing diversion to dairy use of lands withdrawn from production and another making only $500,000,000 available for farm benefits.

Dairying Provisions Same.

The house bill also contains the dairying provision, precluding any possibility of change by the conference committee. Smith said, however, that congress might increase the funds for the act.

The house took up today the administration's bill designed to encourage the investment of private capital in housing. Debate brought Republican attacks on the measure, but rule limited speech-making. A senate banking subcommittee was studying a similar proposal with a view to getting it before the senate early next week.

Anti-lynching legislation now is before the senate and must be taken up when it reconvenes Monday. Senator Wagner, Democrat, New York, and author of the anti-lynching measure, said it might be possible to bring the housing measure up for immediate consideration if proponents of the anti-lynching bill were assured that it would not be permanently sidetracked.

Senator Barkley, the majority leader, said that if the housing bill could be brought before the senate on Monday, final action might be possible by December 22, when the special session is supposed to end.

TODAY'S POLITICS

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

The country today is being dominated by politicians, from the city of Macon to the United States government. It has gotten to the place that unless you have the support of the politicians, an individual's efforts are futile.

As Mr. Chas. Gibson writes in his letter in this paper on Dec. 6, the Democratic party as the South has known it has been destroyed, and it is very true. As he said, it has been replaced with a coalition of aliens, Negroes and etc. The Roosevelt administration has been catering to the Negroes as it can plainly be seen. First of all the Negroes have an organization by the name of American Association for the Advancement of Colored People up North which is a huge thing. With so many Negroes up North this organization has a tremendous influence over elections, I'm sorry to say. If you recall the famous "Scottsboro" case in Alabama, you will remember that a lawyer from New York defended them and perhaps he was sent there by this same organization and paid by their funds.

Perhaps the reason Wagner introduced the anti-lynching bill was to increase his standing among the Negroes in the state of New York. I want to commend our Southern representatives for fighting this foolish thing and do hope they will continue the good work in reference to this bill. As I read, if Wagner would look after all the gangsters, bandits and murderers that his state possesses, he would have his hands full without worrying about conditions here in the South. The more this question is commented on the more race hatred and prejudice it produces. The people of the South are and have been friends of the Negro, as long as he understands the conditions that prevail in the South.

Macon. J. O. TOWNS.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
December 5, 1937

THE SOUTH AGAIN THE VICTIM OF SECTIONAL GREED, JEALOUSY

More than 70 years ago the south, after four years of heroic struggle, suffered defeat on the field of battle. Chiefly because the north wished to abolish slavery, although the slaves in the south had for the most part come through the hands of northern traders who made vast profits on their commerce in human flesh, the south was forced to her knees.

For half a century afterwards the story of the south was the story of a region struggling out of the damning aftermaths of war.

Chattel slavery of the negro was abolished. But in its place was substituted an economic slavery that, in its blighting effect, is worse. In the new slavery, there is no limitation by race. Whites and negroes alike are its victims.

High tariff policies, year by year, bled the southern cotton producer, and the southern consumer, for the benefits of the industrialized regions of the north and east.

Differentials in freight costs have imposed an unfair financial handicap on every southern industry which sought to send its product to market in competition with the products of other regions.

By scores of methods, the south has been held in economic inferiority to the rest of the nation.

Now there is evident a very definite program which, unless it is promptly halted, can result only in still further impoverishment of this section.

* * *

Under the terms of the proposed farm bill which is to be submitted to the senate, the southern cotton producer would be forbidden to raise more than 10,000,000 bales of cotton a year. This is barely enough to meet the requirements of the domestic market and ignores, entirely, the scant remnants that remain of the export cotton market this country once enjoyed.

Worse, is the provision that the southern farmer, forbidden to raise cotton on many of his acres, is to be forbidden to use those acres for raising cattle, hogs or for growing corn.

Still another affront, tentatively approved by the national house of representatives, is the proposal to withhold federal benefit payments from southern farmers who turn to dairying to replace their cotton.

Thus the southern farmer would be legally estopped from all the cash crops open to him on a diversified farming system. Cattle, hogs, corn, dairy herds and all the feeds that can be grown for them, would not be lawful products for the southerner to raise in place of the cotton he is forbidden to grow.

* * *

A measure known as the anti-lynching bill is being forced through congress. The name of the bill is a misnomer. It is actually not so much an effort to halt the crime of lynching, but an effort to take from the states one of their most vital rights, their police power.

Every decent man or woman in the south would gladly welcome anything which would stamp out lynch law. The steady improvement in the lynch record of the south is irrefutable proof of this. According to the Negro Year Book, published at Tuskegee Institute, the average annual total of lynchings had shrunk to 13.6 for the decade ending with 1936, from 103.5 for the decade ending in 1896. This is a greater improvement than that for lynching of white men in the west and other parts of the country.

But this misnamed "anti-lynching" bill does not seek, along intelligent, co-operative lines, to help the south stamp out this most horrible crime. It seeks, rather, to invoke the federal powers to punish local enforcement officers and the entire population, innocent and guilty alike, where a lynching occurs. It even makes it financially alluring for the family survivors of the victim for the lynching to occur.

* * *

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It was conceived with the chief purpose of robbing southern industry. It would place industry at the mercy of a federal bureaucracy and would give a group of government appointees in Washington the power of life or death over every private manufacturing enterprise in the nation.

With these new specific attacks on the south, there remains still, as the dominating motive of the economic picture, the dark shadow of high tariff, which forces the southern farmer to buy all his supplies in a high, tariff-protected market, while his products, chiefly his cotton, must be sold in open, free trade world markets, in competition with products produced in foreign lands by cheap, coolie labor. Further, the high tariff acts as an effective bar to foreign purchases of American cotton by keeping the goods other nations would sell to this country, away from our ports. It thus holds a protective umbrella over the rapidly increasing foreign production of cotton.

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By thus shackling the south, on the farm and in the factory, economically, politically and socially, unemployment will be increased and the average per capita income in this section will be further reduced. Taking acres out of production means taking work away from thousands of agriculturalists. Enactment of the wages and hours bill, virtually a tariff wall between states, means imperiling the jobs of thousands of industrial employes.

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The time has come for the south to realize fully the economic and political strangulation with which it is threatened.

Most important of all, our representatives in congress must awaken to the fact that, under the guise of high-sounding theories, policies are being advanced which, unless blocked, will again make the south the victim of sectional greed and jealousy.

BRYAN, TEX., EAGLE
DEC. 29, 1937 17

Lynchings on Decrease

In view of the recent interest taken in the discussion in Congress of the proposed anti-lynching legislation, the annual report of the Tuskegee Institute on lynchings for the current year should attract more than usual attention.

This report shows that eight lynchings were recorded during the year, all the victims being negroes. It further states that three of the lynched were taken from jails, while the other five were in the custody of officers but were not in jail at the time of their seizure by the mob.

The number of persons lynched was the same as that for the previous year and considerably less than for a number of years previous to 1936, showing that more and more the people are inclined to give the law a chance at punishment and that the belief that those accused of crime should have a fair trial is steadily growing.

The most notable phase of the report, perhaps, is that dealing with the prevention of lynchings. A total of 56 cases were cited, five in the North and 51 in the South. In each of these cases law enforcement officers stood fast against mobs and prevented the capture of their charges by groups of inflamed men and women. As a result a total of 77 men, women and children were protected from mob rule.

While America is more fertile in crime than any other great nation and many cases of serious crime go unsolved and unpunished, it is a fact that more and more the violator of the law in America is finding the path of the transgressor hard.

In this state in the past year there have been a number of notable cases of criminals being brought to justice, in proceedings marked by law and order, despite the fact that local populaces were highly incensed and inflamed. The more frequently cases of this type are recorded the less danger there is of mob rule.

In fact, study of lynchings makes it apparent that one or two cool heads are all that is required to head off a lynching. Mobs that take the law into their hands are, as a rule, groups of men and women easily swayed by passion and prejudice, but at the same time susceptible to the rule of reason and a display of real courage. For this reason the officer who takes a bold stand against mobs is usually successful in his effort to protect his prisoners and the fact that so many evidenced this courage in the past year should tend to give the people generally more confidence in the rule of law and order and in the integrity of the average law enforcement official.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5723

Anniston, Ala. Star
December 4, 1937

A Political Measure

Frank R. Kent, frequent critic of the New Deal, in a recent article names the anti-lynching bill exactly what it is—a political measure intended to keep in line Negro voting blocs in Eastern states, The Decatur Daily avers.

Mr. Kent wrote: "From the political standpoint this measure is probably the most pregnant of any which will be considered this session. Despite the humanitarian professions of its champions, everybody knows that the driving power of the fight for it is generated by the great Negro vote in the big debatable states north of the Mason and Dixon line and stretching from Connecticut to Michigan."

"In spite of the fact that many humanitarian organizations are declared to be lending their support to the measure, the bill, itself, possesses no humanitarian principles," says the Decatur editor. "It is political from beginning to end.

"It does not prohibit lynching and does not provide for punitive measures against communities of the East which suffer from periodical gang killings and labor wars.

"The bill is a sharpened knife aimed directly at the heart of state's rights. It is intended to insult the South in order that political band wagon riders like Senator Guffey and Senator Wagner may continue to keep their snouts in the public trough by means of the support the Eastern Negroes can give them at the polls.

"The Southern Senators have done very well with their filibuster so far, but when the farm control measure is out of the way, they should have courage enough to resume their filibuster and keep it going until the senate leadership agrees that the South will be spared this slap in the face.

"The farm bill had the right-of-way, but other measures are behind the lynching bill. There may be a lot of merit in some of the proposals, but let them wait, if necessary, and let's beat this lynching measure by whatever means required."

Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
December 3, 1937

MOB WAR NOT SECTIONAL

The Albany, Ga., Herald makes this comment on the proposed anti-lynching bill now on the calendar of the Senate for passage:

Many of those who demand that Congress enact anti-lynching legislation easily assume that it is the South alone that needs to be disciplined.

Mob law is not to be excused anywhere or under any circumstances. It is wholly bad. It represents an insidious attack on constituted authority, on organized government.

But when has mob law in the South been any worse than mob law in the North? What Southern mob has raped justice more viciously than have organized gangsters in the North and West?

There have been wholesale killings time and again. These have been heralded as "gang against gang," but it was lynch law—men condemned without due process of law, and executed by firing squads detailed by gangdom big-shots. In a Detroit restaurant on Thanksgiving Day a former Purple Gangster was shot to death by executioners who also wounded four other persons, as more than twenty shots were fired. The victims in various similar enterprises in New York, Chicago and other gang-infested cities have varied in number from one to a half a dozen or more.

The Herald is eminently correct, but it fails to make the point that the vicious anti-lynching measure specifically exempts gangsters and all other crime from its provisions.

After all is said and done, the measure isn't a thing but a sop to the northern negro vote.

If the bill should by any chance pass, it would do more to disturb the peaceful relations that exist between the two races than anything that has happened in 50 years.

ANTI-LYNCHING GROUP MEETS IN MISSISSIPPI

More Conferences Will Be Held Next Year

12-5-37

Special to The Commercial Appeal

DURANT, Miss., Dec. 4. — Arrangements for further conferences in the state next year to carry on campaign against lynching were made here yesterday, as the second such conference came to a close. Mrs. Dan Comfort, leader for this district, will arrange the meetings.

The two-day meeting presented addresses and discussions of an educational program, the cause of lynching, economic problems underlying mob action and co-operation should a Federal anti-lynching law be passed. Speakers were Mrs. Jeeie Danil Ames of Atlanta, executive director of the Southern Conference for Prevention of Lynching; the Rev. Charles G. Hamilton, rector of the Aberdeen Episcopal Church; the Rev. J. L. Sendlin, pastor of the Clarksdale Christian Church; Miss Constance Rumbough of Rosedale, associate director of the Delta Co-operative Association, and the Rt. Rev. Theodore Dubose Bratton of Jackson.

Dr. E. S. Lewis, pastor of the Durant Methodist Church, where the conference was held, welcomed the conferees.

Californians Petition For Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Vice President John N. Garner laid before the Senate last Monday a resolution adopted by the Public Affairs Association of the Santa Monica Back Bay District, California, favoring the prompt enactment of the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

Senator Royal S. Copeland, Democrat, of New York, presented a petition from the Harlem Industrial Workers, New York City, to the same effect.

Ga. Legislature Scores Federal Anti-Lynch Law

ATLANTA, Ga.—Charging that the Anti-lynching bill now before Congress is "manifestly unjust, unfair and would place an oppressive burden upon the entire south," the Georgia House of Representatives adopted a resolution against the bill and sent it to the Georgia Congressional delegation.

The resolution said that strikes, rioting and similar disorder in the industrial centers of the north and east have caused more loss of life" than all the lynchings in the south." It was suggested to the Congressional delegation that "should this bill be enacted into law the losses of life of strikers and peaces be compensated in the same manner as in cases of lynching and that the county authorities be charged with liability and subject to the same penalties."

Nashville Daily Claims Anti-Lynching Bill Should Have Been Passed Years Ago

NEW YORK, Dec. 10—Among the many clippings received here by the N. A. A. C. P. urging passage of federal anti-lynching law is one from the Nashville, Tenn., Tennessean for December 7 which declares: "In this instance (signing the wages and hours bill) as in the case of the anti-lynching bill, southern senators and congressmen have not displayed that brand of enlightened statesmanship the nation—including the south—has the right to ask of them.

"The wage-hour bill should have been voted on at the regular session. Anti-lynching legislation should have been voted years ago. For a southerner to say less after all these years of inveighing against the evils these measures are designed to correct would mark him a whited sepulchre before his own conscience."

...UCKY ...Y MOST ...IBERAL ...N SOUTH

Courier

Louisville Editor Says His Town Backs Anti-Lynching Bill, Enfranchisement and Equality of Opportunity.

12-7-37

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 16 — (ANP)— Louisville Negroes enjoy more civil rights than do those of any other Southern city, declared Mark Ethridge, general manager of the Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, Tuesday night at the fourth annual state interracial conference.

Although Mr. Ethridge is a native of Mississippi, he has become nationally known as one of the most liberal white editors in America. He told his audience Tuesday night that he favored passage of the anti-lynching bill, enfranchisement and equality of opportunity.

"The price of keeping Negroes in poverty is to keep whites in poverty, and to continue the Ku Klux Klan, Black Shirts and Tobacco Road," he said. Mr. Ethridge also cited as undemocratic and unjustifiable arguments made against pending wage and hour legislation purely because Southern Negroes would come under its provisions.

Speaking of lynching, he asserted, "So long as there are extra-legal punishments in the South, no man, white or black, is assured of protection under the law. The anti-lynching bill is bound to be enacted.

"As a civilized country, America, out of self respect, must see that there are no more lynchings. If it takes a federal marshal or a deputy to prevent lynching, I as a Mississippian advocate the use of these federal officials."

Although the race is making vast strides economically and in the professions and skilled trades, "inexcusable inequalities of opportunity exist in numerous instances," Mr. Ethridge said, pointing out that in Southern states Negro children receive only 1/7th of the amount spent for white education and that a similar disparity exists in health facilities, sanitation and housing.

Urging Negroes to remedy these conditions and to think in terms of generations rather than years, he stressed the value of the ballot as a means of winning recognition but pointed out that merely putting faith in the name of Lincoln was of little aid.

"The best thing for the Negro race is to split wide open between the two parties," he said. "Then and only then will their voices be heard in both camps."

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 28, 1937

The North Attempts A Folly

SUPPOSE that you were a father with a sick, a very sick boy. This boy you had almost lost, but your family doctor, by skillful treatment and diligent care, had pulled him past the crisis. At this point, then, would you fire your family doctor, go out into the medical world and hire a new doctor with a new treatment? This doctor had an untried treatment which he believed to be a remarkable one, even though he admitted it to be dangerous. Would you want him to experiment on your son, already on the road to recovery? We think not.

Neither does the South want the federal government to tinker with its criminal laws, just because a few politicians in the North think that they can win a little favor with a segment of their misguided electorate by so doing. We refer, of course, to the anti-lynching bill which, in recent months, has been so persistently before Congress, and will be back before it as soon as the new session opens within the next few days.

In the South during 1937, there have been eight negroes who died at the hands of mobs and this figure, together with the identical figure for 1936, is an all-time low since statistics were started on this sort of thing 40 or 50 years ago, if we are not mistaken. In case anyone doubts their accuracy, these figures come from the negro school, Tuskegee Institute, and they show a decline from 20 lynchings in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

The most remarkable part about the Tuskegee figures for 1937, however, is that in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings that might have involved five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in the North and the other 51 occurred in the South—and yet the North would slap a federal law upon us because our officers do not have the courage to thwart a mob!

Fifty-one times, officers in the South have stepped into the breach and, risking their own lives, they have driven off mobs, or outwitted them, or outtalked them, or outfought them. But are we told about such things as these by the congressmen from the North who, in their zeal to capture a few votes, would inflict a sectional statute upon the South? Time after time, they tell the story of the Mississippi torch lynching—and a horrible story it is—but they don't tell the country that we had fewer than half as many lynchings in 1936 and 1937 as we had in 1935, and they don't tell the country that on 51 separate occasions, Southern officers of the law braved life and limb in 1937 to see that justice, if any, would be meted out in the courts and not by a band of vigilantes.

In view of this record—a record which is remarkable when compared with the hundreds of lynchings which occurred in the South a half a century ago—it seems unthinkable that any real friend of the negro would wish to upset the apple-cart. And the apple-cart will be upset if our states are to be denied the privileges of conducting their courts as they see fit. Never you forget that for one instant. The lynching fever itself was born of the Northern-dominated courts which were inflicted upon the South following the War Between the States—courts which laughed when aggrieved white men asked justice for a black man. Will the North now repeat its folly?

Do those Northern congressmen think, for a single instant, that Southern officers will be diligent about the arrest and protection of a negro murderer or rapist if they know that at any moment a mob might snatch the prisoner from them, and lead them to fines and prison terms? Do those Northern congressmen think that it's just to impose a fine of thousands of dollars upon an entire county just because a band of a few irresponsible men, under the cover of darkness, commits a murder? Do they think that it's any more just for this fine to be imposed upon us that for the federal government to impose a similar fine upon a New York county for a gang killing? A mob death in the South, so the sociologists tell us, is simply an exhibition that a few men are determined to display and preserve their racial supremacy. A gang killing, then, is simply an exhibition that a few men are determined to display and preserve their economic supremacy. Is one any worse than the other?

If that federal anti-lynching bill does become a law, the real friend of the negro will rue the day. It will do more to disrupt the relationships between the two races, which have been growing in cordiality each year, than any other conceivable thing.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5724

Beaufort, S C., Gazette
November 25, 1937

REMARKS OF SENATOR ELLISON D. SMITH

Of South Carolina Before Senate Nov. 19 In Opposition to Anti-Lynching Bill

Mr. Smith: Mr. President, I do not intend at this time to make a speech or attempt to advert. except briefly, to what, in my opinion, is the most opprobrious, the most uncalled for, and the most vicious attack upon a section of the country that has ever been made in our history—and that, too, from the party to which my section has given allegiance during all the disappointing years following the War Between the States, during which it was only accidentally placed in power, and that only temporarily.

I have risen to serve notice that not now, when other matters should be before us, will I discuss this infamous bill. but later, when it will be before us under a very questionable procedure of this body, I shall address myself to the measure. It is an iniquitous thing, which seeks to make an impassable gulf between the North and South and East and West, and will not be forgiven in the course of the next generation. It has broken what up to now has been an indissoluble and the southern democracy. The pressing of this bill by the so-called leaders of Democracy. The pressing of this bill by the so-called leaders of Democracy has absolved my section of the country forever from allegiance to the name of the National Democratic Party. You cannot make anything out of us but not Democrats of this type.

Mr. President, what I rose to say was that when this bill shall come up, as it will come. I, for one, will join with other southern Democrats to filibuster to deathh all other legislation, and by doing so we prevent my devoted section from being branded by the Senate of the United States as this bill would brand it.

We have shed blood for less than this. We surely can sacrifice certain legislation if by its sacrifice we may prevent the stigma that is deliberately planned to be placed on the section to which I belong. and which, please God, is more civilized better cultured. and certainly better educated in the amenities of life than are the sections from which come those who would perpetrate this outrage on us.

The very terms of the bill brand its sponsors with ignorance of the philosophy and the social and intellectual standards of their ancestors. It seeks to reflect upon the proud section of the country whose sons have been the authors of and defenders of that which made America great. Yet all history, all precedent, and all decency and all attempts to make a common country. after the horrible spectacle of War Between the States, must go down before the desire to get the votes of an unfortunate and inferior race. That is all the bill is for. The splendid speech made by the lady from Alabama (Mrs. Gra[illegible]) this afternoon was marvelous in its eloquent portrayal of the undeeniable facts. She analyzed them from every standpoint, and stated to this body, supposed to be a great deliberative body. nothing but the fundamental principles of justice. equity, and the relation of the States to the Nation and the Nation to the States. I wondered if she really realized to whom she was talking.

Mr. President, this bill would hardly be respectable in a slum community. Disrobe it, let it stand out in its baldness, and it is merely an attempt to appeal to an unfortunate race at the expense of the good name and the good citizenship of a section of America. I repeat that all those who come from the South ought to band together to resist the passage of this bill. In the confusion incident to the adjournment of the last session some of us. perhaps in order to get away, made the mistake of putting it on the calendar as one of the bills that must be taken up and seriously considered. It is not worthy the atention of decent men. Knowing its purpose as we do, every real lover of America and of his Government ought to help to throw it out the window.

Mr. Connally: Mr. President—

The presiding officer: Does the Senator from South Carolina yield to the Senator from Texas?

Mr. Smith: I yield

Mr. Connally: The Senator said that every southern Senator ought to do what he has suggested. Regardless of whether he is a southern Senator or any other kind of a Senator. I take it that the Senator from South Carolina thinks every Senator ought to respect the constiutional limitations of the Federal Government and of the States. ones he not?

Mr. Smith: Oh. certainly.

Mr. Connally:-Let me ask the Senator another question. At present where is the junrisdiction to try the crime of murder?

Mr. Smith: It is within the States.

Mr. Connally: It is within the States; and if it be there now under the Constitution, how can it be taken away from them and given over to the Federal Government an amendment to the Constitut on of the United States?

Mr. Smith: It is now a question of the Supreme Court sustaining the bill. if it should be enacted; it is not a question of it becoming law; it is a question of getting the endorsement of the Congress for political reasons. What is the use of mincing words about it? Everybody knows what its purpose is. I think those who have introduced and are sponsoring it ought to estimate how much it would take to buy the Negro votes of their respective communities and then ask Congress to make an appropriation so that they buy the votes without attempting to humiliate my section to accomplish the same end.

Mr. Connally: May I interrupt the Senator again? We have the constitutional power to make such an appropriation. have we not?

Mr. Smith: Certainly; and it would be more decent for them to come in frankly and say, "We want you to make an appropriation to enable us to buy the Negro votes of Harlem, of the south side of Chicago, and elsewhere where members of this unfortunate race live in large numbers". Count them; let us see how much it will cost, and buy their votes, but for God's sake. do not attempt to humiliate a great section in order to get the Negro vote.

Mr, Bankhead: In the opinion of the Senator from South Carolina, how many votes would this bill get if Negroes were not voters?

Mr. Smith: Not one. The Senator from Alabama has hit the nail on the head; and yet, to the shame of this great body, that has helped demonstrate to a doubtful world that democracy is possible, that dual form of government, collectivism where indicated and individualism where indicated. is practicable certain long-haired men and short-haired women who never assumed the real responsibilities of life, but are now attempting to perpetrate such a dastardly thing as this, charge us. whose good name is jeopardized, with delaying legislation; in other words, they would nlet this brand be placed on us in order to get a few Harlem votes.

So far as I am concerned, I represent, in part. the little storm center of the United States, little South Carolina, that passed the Nullification Act single-handed and alone, and then secede. I do not apologize for either act, because it showed the grit of those from whom I descended. The same courage is in us now. Nothing is done in malice, but our self-respect is touched for the dirty thing of getting votes—and getting them from where and from whom? I imagine those who are trying to get them are about on a par with those from whom they would be obtained. Any man or set of men that will stoop so low as this are no higher than the source from which they hope to draw their political strength. They are not going to get away with it.

Against my own family a crime was committed that would inflame the heart of any man. I saw a father-in-law 80 years old shot to death. his son shot to death. that son's bride of 8 months shot to death, and a poor. young Negro, who had belonged to certain members of my family, who attempted to defend this defenseless household, had his throat cut. Yet I am those of us whose blood and the sanctity of whose homes were jeopardized believed in letting the law take its course..

I invite the author of this bill to go and stay where we stay, surrounded by the conditions that surrounded us, and which have surrounded us, [illegible] the da of the reconstruu n since the days of reconstruction. If he would do that. in place of trying to condemn us,, were he to know as know. and as every other southerner knows. the instigation for those outbreaks of lawlessnesses, if he had a drop of decency in him he would take off his hat in honor of the South emerging as it has emerged from the negro prevalent perpetration of this deed.

You may call it "humanitarianism".; but have you no respect for our officers, have you no respect for us?

Mr. President, I said I was not going to make a speech, and I am not. I am simply serving notice that I am going to do everything within my power to keep this iniquitous and unjust stigma from being placed on my section of the country. What

...ost it comes from the so-called Democratic Party, which we have loved and which, in the dark days of reconstruction, was our pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night, a fact which made me feel kindly toward old Tammany. I shall never be able to pay my debt of obligation to that organization which stood between us and the death of our civilization.

Senators stand here and quote the Constitution. What is the Constitution to a man who is hunting votes? What does it amount to with him? I can call a polecat a geranium. but that does not make him any less a polecat. You may call this humanitarianism, but it is no less a vote gettting scheme. We all know that. II a certain distinguished Senator were not dead, but were still in this body, I should like to quote what he said when I remonstrated with him about the injunction into this body of a similar bill.

No one knows or can know how we of the South feel about this thing. Mark my predicitions if this bill passes and becomes law thhough the Supreme Court declaring it constitutional you will have injected a rut into the ranks of the so-called Democratic Party that all the blandishments of the next generation will never heal.

Mr. President. I wonder sometimes what is the purpose of the treatment being accorded the South. The two-thirds rule in national conventions was abolished and we were eliminated from any particiption in the naming of a President. You are about to pass, and perhaps, will pass, an hours and wages bill which, in the rescrudescent state of my section, will crucify it. Now you come laong and say, "You are not competent to protect your prisoners"; and so the great purified, sublimated, glorified. crime-ridden New York and her collaborating State, those two peaks of morality and of political and social purity, must not only shed their light on poor benighted South Carolina and the rest of the South, but must send their gifted peace officers down there to help us eliminate lynchihng and promote rack-steering.

Mr. Overton: The Senator has lived all of his years in the South. The ostensible purpose of this bill is to protect the Negro from the crimes that are committeed upon him by the people of the South. I desire to ask the Senator, what is the attitude of the South toward the Negro race; whether the South is not the best friend of the Negro race that is found in any section.

Mr. Smith: Oh Mr. President, that goes w.thout saying. As a baby boy I was nursed in the arms of a Negro woman, whom I loved as devotedly as was possible. Then, later on. old Uncle Bill, who lived to be 108 years old. was my shelter in the time of storm. Many a time my father would lead me around behind the house, where was an old pivet bush that I have hated from that day until this. It grew just the righh length of sprouts to "teach the young idea how to shoot". He would take me around behind the huose in order to better the condition of my soul and morals by the application of the hickory; and old Uncle Bill. whom my father revered and respected more than he did any other man, would just walk up without a word and deliver me from the hand of the slayer. Oh, I loved him with devotion.

The South knows the Negro. and knows his limitations. I state before this body—and I dare any of you to go down and investigate, that since the Supreme Court has declared that in certain cases involving Federal jurisdiction Negroes must be on the jury. when the Negroes themselves have a case they will take you aside and say, "Do. for God's sake, get me the best white men you can on the jury". Is it not so?

Down in the section from which we come the Negroes are treated just as justly, and more understandingly, than these gentlemen up North. We do not call them "mister" and mistress" because they have been accustomed to call us "marster" and "mistress". We do not take them into fellowship with us in the home or in the school, becuase it is dangerous. You know it. I know it. But give the Negro a school to himself, a church to himself, and treat him fairly, and the relation between the races has grown amicable as the years have gone by. Pass this bill, and you will be responsible for the consequences.

Mr. President, you are about to put us in this position: Here is the party to which we have given allegiance and for which we have suffered. Though defeat after defeat came, we still were loyal to the principles of democracy. You are about to put us in the position that was described by the Negro preacher who had more knowledge of the sound of words than he did of their meaning. He said to his congregation, "There air but two roads. One leads 'way up to perdition and the other one 'way down to degradation". The Negro said "My God! If dat be true, dis nigger takes to the woods!"

Here in the home of our friends. so-called, we are threatened with the most humiliating expression of the other part of the country that ever was conceived in the heart of man. Why. it was born in the heat and passion just subsequent to the Civil War.

I wonder if the Senate is going to pass this South-baiting, South-humiliating measure. I wonder if it is. If we who love the Constitution and love fair play and decency, whether we are Southerners or not, can prevent it. the bill will not pass before the time arrives for another election and calling together of Congress.

Mr. President, when the bill comes up I hope to make some extended remarks regarding it.

Lexington, Miss. Advertiser
November 18, 1937

The Anti-Lynching Bill

While the whole United States flounders away toward another depression and the farmers of the nation await a much needed program of crop control, the world's greatest deliberative body, the Senate, filibusters on the Anti-lynching bill which passed the Lower House at the last session.

The Southern senators, including Pat Harrison, feel that it is a hopeless job and that the bill will pass.

While the saner and more thoughtful citizens of the South deplore lynching more than the Northern south-baiters, the measure is aimed at the South. If there was any good way to prevent this most abhorrent form of lawlessness, the thinking people of the South would be the first to advocate it.

The bill now pending is one that will work a hardship on all but the guilty and will mean the loss of the most sacred principle of local self-government. It will mean that Federal courts will hold jurisdiction over the law enforcement usurping the power of the states to maintain their own houses in order.

Like many of the well-intentioned people of the East, the president is misguided in the matter, if indeed he is for this measure. It was not one of his "must" assignments to the lawmakers.

To life-long Democrats, steeped in the principle of States-Rights, the bill is unconstitutional in intention as well as practice. Seeking to fine the officer who allows a prisoner to fall into the hands of a mob, the whole issue to be determined by Federal rather than state courts, is too drastic a remedy for the "disease." Lynching and mob action are going out of their own accord. Education and a more enlightened citizenship, as well as better law enforcement, will cure the sore spot without federal action.

Even the most rabid (misinformed) Eastener should hesitate to enforce the type of federal tyranny that proved so distasteful to this section in the dark days of Reconstruction. Its passage in the Lower House was for political expediency rather than to cure an evil.

As the bill now reades, few believe it will be found constitutional, but time alone can tell. J. B.

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
December 8, 1937

A POLITICAL FOOTBALL

The antilynching bill happens to be an excellent vote-getting device for its advocates and opponents alike. The former, principally the Northern Congressmen, of course, know that many of their constituents admire their identification with the bill. The latter, the Southern Congressmen, almost exclusively, are perfectly aware that they can arouse a certain amount of favorable sectional feeling by attacking the bill at every opportunity. Once the bill was passed, or once it became evident that it never could be passed, congressional appeals to sectional emotions would no longer be politically useful. Accordingly, the antilynching bill is a measure that very few Congressmen want passed but that very few Congressmen want to see defeated. It is a most serviceabe political football and a majority of the congressmen on both sides want to see it kept in play.—Mobile Register.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
December 9, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL SCORED

A vigorous blow was struck at the Wagner federal anti-lynching bill by the Georgia legislature in the adoption of a resolution charging that strife in industrial areas of the North has caused more loss of life "than all the lynchings in the South."

In addition to various other reasons why the proposed measures should not be passed, it is unfair to single out one type of crime for penalty. As the assembly's resolution points out, the bill, if it is passed, should provide for compensation for losses of life of strikers and peace officers in the same manner as in lynchings and also that county authorities be charged with liability and made subject to the same penalties.

However, the measure should not be approved by congress and we believe that our Southern members of congress, who are doing such splendid work against this vicious legislation, will be successful in their fight.

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5725

FARM BILL DEBATE
DELAYS LYNCH BILL

Press Service: the n.a.a.c.p.
New York City

Washington, Dec. 10.- Continued debate on the farm bill in the Senate has further delayed consideration of the Gavagan-Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill which is next on the calendar.

12-10-37

It was thought that the farm bill would be passed by December 9, but the word is now that it probably will not be passed until Tuesday, December 14.

Immediately after the passage of the farm bill, the anti-lynching bill is the next order of business and debate on it is expected to be resumed at the point where it was dropped on November 22.

Behind the scenes numerous inducements have been offered to Senators Robert F. Wagner and Frederick Van Nuys to get them to consent to postponement of a vote on the anti-lynching bill.

Newspapers report that Senator Wagner has been offered cooperation and support for his housing bill if he will let the anti-lynching bill be delayed still further. It is said that Senator Van Nuys, who feels very strongly about tax revision, has been promised cooperation and support if he will temporarily withdraw the anti-lynching bill from the calendar.

The latest move in an effort to postpone action on the anti-lynching bill is the suggestion made, wholly unofficially, that the government's huge housing bill, designed to revive business, should be allowed to come into the Senate ahead of the anti-lynching bill.

Supporters of the anti-lynching bill point out that they are just as anxious as anyone else to see a revival of business and to support the housing measure or any other measure designed to increase employment and purchasing power. But they point out that the anti-lynching bill has been tossed about on one excuse or another ever since the beginning of the depression and that many times it has given way before measures which were thought to be necessary to the prosperity of the country. They also point out that there are more than enough votes to pass the bill in the Senate and that it can be passed in one hour. Therefore, they argue, it should be brought to a vote, disposed of, and then the Senate can go on without delay to other business.

Senators who might be lending an ear to the proposals to further delay a vote on the anti-lynching bill are certain to hear from home, since all observers and newspaper cooresponden[illegible] agree that the sentiment of the country is overwhelmingly in favor of a federal anti-lynching law. The quicker it is taken up and voted upon, the quicker the Senate can get to other measures. Senators Wagner and Van Nuys have stood firmly against any plan to delay consideration of the bill.

According to the latest information, the anti-lynching bill may be back on the floor of the Senate by December 15 or 16. The date depends on whether the farm bill will be brought to a vote by that time.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
December 1, 1937

Some Truth—More Ignorance

The article in "The Nation" by Virginius Dabney, editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, entitled "Dixie Rejects Lynching," contains much truth and reveals, at the same time, much ignorance of feeling in the South, especially the "deep South."

The informed, self-respecting and enlightened South, always has rejected lynching. More than sixty years ago South Carolina, under the leadership of the great editor of The News and Courier, Francis Warrington Dawson, began an unceasing opposition to lynching and members of the staff of the newspaper, in the field, at times exposed their very lives to danger when they investigated cases of it.

The Columbia State, under the editorship of the distinguished N. G. Gonzales, who had long served with Captain Dawson and was one of the young men who did not count peril of his life in the campaign for law and order, joined The News and Courier's fight in 1891. Although South Carolina was one of the two Southern states having a large majority of negroes in the population (there has been a white majority since 1930) lynching steadily decreased in the state, despite occasional incitement to it from one or two demagogues in office.

Mr. Dabney attaches especial import to the endorsement by the "Commission on Interracial Cooperation" of the Costigan-Wagner bill and the Wagner-Van Nuys bill. Now the fact is, that a long time defeatism in respect of state rights has increased in the South, and not many of the brave old advocates of it, of the stamp of Lamar, Wade Hampton, Morgan and Pettus, and Culberson of Texas, remain. Nor have the Southern Democrats Northern allies now as they had when Thurmon of Ohio, Voorhies of Indiana, and scores like them were senators from Northern states. The evidence that Mr. Dabney cites simmers to the fact that the old Democrats, South and North, of a generation ago, have thrown up the sponge. Too many of them want centralized government and its favors.

To virtually all decent and enlightened Southern men and women, lynching is abhorrent, and they are sympathetic with the aims of the Commission on Interracial Relations, but that is not admitting that they believe the federal government is a better machine to "civilize" the South than are the Southern states individually. The burden is on men like Mr. Dabney to show that the efforts of outside reformers has been or will be effective for good on any American state.

who is prepared to prove that the crusades in behalf of Leo Frank, of Sacco and Vanzetti, or the Scottsboro negroes, of Tom Mooney, have, on the whole, been helpful to the races or persons concerned?

Even if the lives of some of the Scottsboro convicts were saved by the interveners it is not improbable that other negroes in Alabama have been sacrificed in consequence of it.

In the South, the North too, the lynchers, the gangsters, the gunmen, the brigands, do not come from the membership of commissions on interracial relations or other benevolent societies, and once the crazed mob is ascendant in Omaha, in Springfield, in Duluth, it proceeds to its kill.

For that matter, save for a numerous and effective police, race rioting and race slaughter would be commoner in Harlem than in any Southern city. In a dozen Northern cities have been race conflicts since that one in Atlanta a third of a century ago, the last of importance remembered in the South.

Mr. Dabney observes that a law by which counties are held responsible for neglect of duty by county officers, resulting in lynching cases, was enacted in South Carolina in 1896. He says that in at least seven counties, between 1918 and 1931, the minimum fine of $2,000 was collected from the county and that no lynching has occurred in any of the seven since the fine was imposed. As argument, that is ridiculous. Since 1913, it is safe to say that in at least twenty-three of the forty-six counties of South Carolina no lynching has occurred; perhaps none has occurred in more than thirty of the counties. We could name for Mr. Dabney numerous counties in South Carolina that have had no lynchings within the recollection of living men, and in recent years such outrages have been, to a degree, localized in district where the white industrial population is considerable.

The one method of enforcing law and ending violation of it where two races are dwelling together is by effective policing. In no town of 10,000 inhabitants in South Carolina has been a lynching in the last fifty years, or longer.

Mr. Dabney naively mentions that since the passage of an anti-lynching law in Virginia nine years ago have been no lynchings in that state, and still, by some mysterious process of reasoning, he concludes that the way to put an end to it in other states is through the machinery of the federal government and its courts.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
November 27, 1937

Leadership for the South

In the South, in South Carolina, the need is for leadership that understands Southern interests and is brave enough to stand up and fight for it regardless of party names.

Why should we be slaves to names?

This party that we call "Democratic" elects an administration with the assistance of the LaGuardias, the LaFollettes, the Bob Wagners, and their like. What have they in common with us?

James Wadsworth, Jr., a representative and former senator of New York, not a New York city man, is a Republican, and almost alone among Northern men he opposes the so-called anti-lynching bill.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, lifelong Republican, more than any Northern Democratic leader is this day speaking for the Democracy of Lamar and Hampton, and with the clear voice of a statesman.

These Southern leaders, pulling chestnuts out of the fire for the Guffeys and the Wagners, are, to be sure, getting the offices, the patronage, for themselves, their friends and their kin.

What is that to the masses of the South?

How much richer are the plain people of South Carolina, Dick, Tom and Harry, black and white, for the gifts, the hand-outs to Southern people in the last four and a half years?

What are all these gifts to South Carolina, by the side of $406,000,000 in two years for parks and playgrounds to New York city alone?

How long shall be gulled?

In the North, the South has plenty of friends. We know them. They are not of the machines that control Chicago, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia. They hate them not less than we do.

The constitution provides for the election of the president and the vice president by an Electoral College. Why do we not use it? It is there for our protection and advantage.

White Studes O.K. Lynch Bill

Daily Worker 12-17-37

AUSTIN, Texas—(A N P)—Joining the army of Southerners who ardently favor the passing of a federal anti-lynching bill, Texas University students, in a poll conducted by the school's board of student [illegible] past Saturday showed 61% for such legislation.

Although some [illegible] no opinion on the subject, 21% were against such a law.

Texas University is the largest white university in Texas and their student body is generally accepted as reflecting the thought of the people of Texas. Senator Tom Connally of Texas led a fight against the anti-lynching bill last month.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
December 16, 1937

Sectionalism In Modern America

BY MORGAN M. BEATTY
(A. P. Feature Service Writer)

The 1937 Congress is getting a taste of sectional controversies which smack of the issues that once led America into civil war.

Again, a question of dollars and cents is paramount. The North and South, the East and the West, all want to be sure of their economic places in the sun.

But now, as in antebellum days, there is a moral side issue besides. Then it was slavery. Today it's the lynch law.

Two highly important pieces of legislation before Congress can illustrate the main squabble. They are—

First, the wage and hour bill:

This plan would guarantee workers a wage of at least 40 cents an hour in a 40 hour work week. Northern congressmen, especially those who have a heavy labor vote in their districts, are all for it. Southern congressmen have bottled up the scheme in the House Rules Committee.

Why?

One answer appears in a Department of Labor survey. This little pamphlet says nearly half the unskilled labor in the South is paid less than 40 cents an hour. If 40-cent pay should become universal, Southern employers would have to shell out wage increases to nearly half their workers. On the other hand, the new law wouldn't cut much ice in the North.

Perhaps that explains why Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., from textile-making New England voted for the wage and hour bill. It's no secret that New England textile mills have been moving South.

Second of the sectional controversies rages around the farm bill. This measure has been battered about in Congress for weeks.

The trouble is the bill requires farmers to devote less of their land to five basic crops—wheat, corn, cotton, rice and tobacco. Farmers in every section of the country are wondering what is going to happen to the land that will be released in other sections for new purposes.

For instance, a Wisconsin dairy farmer asks his congressman:

"Will the land left idle by crop control go into milk and butter fat production? And if it does will that flood the milk and butter fat market and demoralize prices?

Then there's the moral side issue just as there was in Civil War days. You can trace it in modern form to the anti-lynching bill that soon will be tearing the hearts out of congressmen.

What is this measure? What's its inspiration? Where does it come from?

The bill is offered mainly by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York, who has always sympathized with the underdog. Of course, Senator Wagner also needs to court the big Negro vote in Harlem, and Negroes naturally want an anti-lynching bill.

Senators and congressmen alike will tell you that the anti-lynching bill will pass if it reaches the floor of the two legislative forums. The warning of such an expert on the Constitution as Senator Borah of Idaho that the law is unconstitutional makes no difference. The measure will get by because congressmen generally want their records to show they are tolerant of all races.

And, they argue, who can say positively that enactment of the law, and the discussion it arouses over the nation, will not help the South wipe out lynching?

At any rate, the issue is primarily sectionalism, even though the purpose of the law is to put a stop to an evil that has harassed the South for many a year.

Happily, there is one important difference between sectionalism three-quarters of a century ago, and sectionalism in this industrial era.

No hot heads are going to try to secede in this day of complex economics. Every section of the United States needs the protection of every other section. John Q. Public will see to it that his congressman acts accordingly.

Lynchings - 1937
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Knoxville Tenn Banner
November 18, 1937

A BILL TO BE KILLED

Southern Senators are amply justified in their firm resistance to the enactment of the antilynching bill.

The measure passed the House at the last session. Every Democratic member from Tennessee placed himself on record against it, the only votes it received from this State being cast by Representatives Taylor and Reece.

The measure has behind it the administration leaders. The enlightened sentiment of the South, as truly as that of any part of the country, condemns lynching; public opinion has been steadily crystallizing against it for many years. The decrease in the number of such illegal acts affords clear proof that not only is public opinion strong in opposition, but law more assertive and effective.

In a speech last April, when the bill was under consideration in the House, Mr. Sumners of Texas, in opposing it, presented a significant record in that connection. He showed in the decade from 1882 to 1892 there was an average of one lynching for each 380,000 people; from 1893 to 1903, inclusive, there was one lynching for each 555,000 population; in the next eleven years, 1904 to 1914, inclusive, there was one lynching for each 1,308,000 population, and for the next period, 1915 to 1925, one per 2,129,000 population. The next period, 1926 to 1935, inclusive, saw one lynching for every 7,488,000 population, and during last year there was one lynching per 15,000,000 population.

The Texas Representative told his associates of the House that he would be willing to make the proposition to any member that he would vote for the bill if any member could point to a single major crime in America that has been reduced as rapidly as that of lynching.

THE BANNER strongly condemns lynching, but it is an offense which should be left to state courts and state law. The measure before Congress embodies a manifest, flagrant, and indefensible attempt to usurp the police powers of the states. Surely the denial of the rights of the states, the undermining process to which they have been subjected, and latterly the deepening policy of the Federal Government to ignore or nullify them, have gone far enough.

The passage of this bill constitutes the most vindictive and unjust blow at the South which has been witnessed since the days of Reconstruction. While designed in enmity to the South, it would affect every section. The bill mobs the Federal Constitution and those of the states.

This true indictment was drawn against it when the bill was first presented to the House:

"The bill does more than destroy state rights; it completely destroys state sovereignty, and makes the states, including all state and county officers, responsible, not to the state governments of which they are a part, and to which they have sworn allegiance, but responsible to the ukase of federal officers, federal courts, and federal bureaucrats.

"The despised force bill of Reconstruction days was no more a wanton or reckless disregard of the inherent and exclusive rights of the states than this vicious measure.

"In addition to placing state and county officers of state governments, from Governor to constable, under supervision and control of federal laws and federal courts and subject to prosecution in federal courts for acts committed, not in their individual, but in their official capacity as state officers; the bill goes still further in penalizing counties, which are subdivisions of state governments created by the states and which cannot be sued, even in state courts, except by grant of the state, and are in this bill made responsible in civil damages recoverable in federal courts, in suits brought by federal district attorneys.

"Furthermore, individual citizens who are not officers may be prosecuted in federal courts, upon the whim and caprice of federal judges, for violation of state laws."

Among other provisions in this outrageous measure are those which would make "wilful neglect" (and a federal and not state court would pass judgment on the conduct of the officer) of an officer to protect a prisoner or failure to prosecute the members of a lynching mob a felony carrying a fine not exceeding $5,000, or by imprisonment not exceeding five years, or by both such fine and imprisonment; and the county where lynching had occurred would be made liable to each person injured, or to his or her heirs if the injuries resulted in death, in a sum not less than $2,000 or not more than $10,000 as monetary compensation. Again the federal court would have jurisdiction.

Furthermore, any judge of a United States district court could switch the trial to any community anywhere in the district, regardless of where the alleged offense was committed, which his desires or prejudices might deem advisable.

A distinguished member of Congress declared: "This is a direct attempt to destroy and remove the last vestige of power of a sovereign state to make and enforce its own laws. If this bill becomes a law, then we will no longer have sovereign states, but they will be mere puppets, subservient to the Federal Government. This bill is a death blow to the rights of the states to exist as such, and the Federal Government sets itself up as the guardian and administrator of state governments, state courts, and state officers, and need will no longer exist for the maintenance of state governments."

That both Senators from Tennessee will be recorded in opposition to this vicious measure may be taken for granted.

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
November 18, 1937

WAGNER IS TO BLAME!

If President Roosevelt's emergency program for business and agricultral recovery is being held up in Congress, it is not the fault of the senators who are taking their stand against the indefensible anti-lynching act.

If the nation's welfare is being jeopardized by delay in meeting a vital economic crisis, the men who are resisting federal invasion of state law enforcement are not responsible.

The man responsible is Senator Wagner, of New York, and his associates. Upon them the full blame for trifling with the national well being should be placed. Senator Wagner is putting Harlem votes ahead of national welfare. He is holding up farm legislation, industrial legislation, tax legislation and other essential items of the emergency agenda in order to win the votes of a few thousand constituents north of the Harlem river.

In the first place, this vote-getting anti-lynching law has no business being considered at a session of Congress called to meet an extraordinary emergency. If it must be considered at all it should come up in regular order at a regular session of the Congress. The favored position it occupied at the head of the senate calendar was not secured with any thought that it would be taken up at a special session, but rather that it would take its turn at a regular assembling of the lawmakers.

In the second place, this Wagner law is unconstitutional and is so regarded by every thoughtful student of the Constitution in the senate, led by Senator Borah, perhaps the ablest Constitutional lawyer in that body. There is nothing in the Constitution which permits the federal government to invade the states and enforce criminal laws for local offenses where no interstate act is involved. There is no constitutional justification for fining the taxpayers of a county $10,000 for the act of someone else and for which they are entirely innocent. The proposed law is a fraud upon its face, drawn with the definite and specific purpose of pleasing an Eastern organization of negroes which has as its purpose the stirring up of race strife and friction.

Finally, the proposed law is dishonest. It would punish mob action in a Southern state and protect mob action in New York. It would punish members of a mob in one section, and leave the members of a mob of Senator Wagner's constituents in racketeering and gangster-ridden New York untouched.

No wonder the senators from the South are outraged by this dishonest attack upon the motives and capacity of the Southern people for self-government. No wonder they propose to fight to the last ditch against such a monstrous proposal. No wonder they meet the author of this iniquitous measure face to face and pour forth their scorn upon him. They are not to be blamed for delay in the emergency program. They are to be commended for their courage. The man to be blamed for all this attention being given an extraneous subject at a time when millions of people are faced with hunger and want is Senator Wagner of New York, and the people of this country should not be allowed to forget the man who considers his own political hide of more importance than the economic welfare of all the millions of people of this great nation.

Congress Has Been Wrangling Over Lynch Bill Since 1902; Few Allies, But No Pushover

LOUISVILLE, Ky. —(SNS)— Federal anti-lynching legislation, which again has provoked a Senate filibuster, has had a long and stormy history. Probably no other issue has had the stamina to survive so many defeats; few have met such stubborn opposition.

Few sessions of Congress have lacked anti-lynching bills since the first was introduced in 1902 but most of these proposals have been killed quietly. It was not until 1922 that the Dyer bill was passed by the House, only to meet slow death in a Senate filibuster. The next affirmative action by Congress was in the regular 1937 session when the Gavagan bill passed the House, and a Senate fight on a similar measure was averted by agreement to delay action until the next session.

The reasons for the long delays between the public appearances of the anti-lynching issue are manifold. It is political dynamite, containing sources of racial and sectional strife, a grave constitutional question, and, at present, the threat of party disruption.

Once Not Sectional

The lynching problem was not always primarily racial or sectional. In 1884 for example, of the 211 mob executions in the United States, 160 were of whites and 51 of Negroes. Lynch law was a prevalent in the newer states of the West as in the South; vigilantism was a tradition of the frontier.

But the picture changed rapidly. By 1892, only sixty-nine whites died at the hands of mobs, as compare with 162 Negroes; in 1902, the year of the first attempt at Federal regulation, seven whites were killed and eighty-five Negroes; last year, all nine lynchings were of Negroes.

The problem also took on a marked sectional aspect. Between 1889 and 1933 the states which had more than 100 lynching each were Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina. The institution became identified with the South.

States Guarded Rights

This naturally increased the difficulty of obtaining Federal legislation. Though not many voices were raised in support of lynching itself, any proposal to send Federal officials into a state to check the evil was regarded as a reflection on that state. It brought up recollections of the Civil War and Reconstruction, and touched sectional pride.

Typical of this attitude is Representative Hatton W. Summers, of Texas. He has asserted that he opposes national legislation "because I am opposed to lynching." He points out that under state laws lynching deaths have declined from 3.4 out of each million population in 1892 to .07 in 1936; that public opinion in the South is becoming more and more opposed to the practice, and that it may be expected to disappear without placing the stigma of special Federal action on the South.

There is, indeed, evidence to prove that lynching has lost caste. Not only has the number of lynchings declined markedly (only seven have occurred this year) but Governors, grand juries and sheriffs have taken a far less lenient attitude of late. True, it is still difficult to obtain convictions in lynching cases, but there is at least more activity in that direction. Last year a jury in the Federal district court of Louisiana awarded $2,500 damages to the parents of a lynching victim. The suit, brought against a Louisiana sheriff for negligence in permitting the lynching, was taken to the Federal court because the parents were residents of Alabama.

Even more striking is the fact that the Commission for Racial Cooperation, an organization of Southern whites, which long has been working to produce public opinion opposed to lynching, recently advocated Federal anti-lynching legislation.

Constitutionally Questioned

Nevertheless, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill now before the Senate cannot expect the support of any Southern Senator, and will be opposed by some Northern Republicans. William E. Borah, for one, has attacked the measure on constitutional grounds as an infringement of the police power of the states. The measure has been drawn in an attemut to bring it within the scope of the Fourteenth Amendment, which provides that no state shall deny the equal protection of the law or deprive any one of life without due process of law. The act sets up a test—that is, if a state or one of its subdivisions fails to employ the lawful means at its disposal to protect persons against lynching, it shall be deemed to have violated the amendment.

Democrats Bothered

In addition to possible constitutional complications, the anti-lynching bill has caused marked cleavage in the Democratic party. Before 1932 agitation against lynching came almost wholly from Republican sources. Now the leadership in the fight for the bill is Democratic. Moreover, the cleavage has not come on conservative New Deal lines, for in the last session both Royal S. Copeland and Robert F. Wagner, who were on opposite sides in the Supreme Court fight, worked for the anti-lynching measure.

Commentators have remarked that the present filibuster does not seem actuated by as much bitterness as attended the earlier efforts to put anti-lynching bills across. This may be due to the weakening of the former solid front of Southern public opinion against such measures. In the last session it was asserted that the conservative Southern Senators did not intend to take any extraordinary precaution against the passage of the bill, but would vote against it

HILLSBORO, TEX. MIRROR
DEC. 28, 1937 17

LATEST FIGURES PROVE PROPOSED FEDERAL ANTI-LYNCHING LAW UNNECESSARY INVASION OF STATE RIGHTS

For the past several sessions of congress efforts have been made to pass a federal anti-lynching law, and its intrusion into the recent special session of congress contributed its share to the failure of that session to pass a single major bill, outside of an appropriation to pay the expenses of congressmen to and from home.

Efforts to pass the measure are very properly regarded as a slap at the south and a still further invasion of state rights.

Law-abiding people of all sections of the United States have opposed mob law, and the sentiment against it in the south as well as elsewhere has grown so strong that it has become one of the most rare rather than most prevalent of crimes. If evidence was needed that the southern people as well as southern officers were determined that the law should take its course, even in the most dastardly of crimes, it is provided in the figures just released by the Tuskegee Institute.

It will be noted that, while all the lynching of the year 1937 occurred in the south, of the 56 instances in which lynchings were prevented by officers, 51 of them were in the south.

The release of Tuskegee Institute follows:

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Dec. 23, 1937.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow toreh; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or othr precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1

Very truly yours,

F. D. Patterson, President.

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TEXAS FOR ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Unfortunately, the publicity achieved by Senator Tom Connally in his filibuster against the anti-lynching bill gave exaggerated importance to his stand. There are many people throughout America who, because of the senator's ranking, believe that Texas is against a federal anti-lynching bill. But the facts show that Senator Connally only represents the old reactionary and bitter element of Texas, which happens to be very much in the minority on this particular question.

Just last week a poll of the students of the University of Texas showed that 61.5% of them were in favor of a federal anti-lynching law, 21.7% of them were against it, and the others expressed no opinion at all. The reaction of the students of the University of Texas is indicative of the attitude of the younger element of Texas throughout the state.

As further evidence of the attitude of the people of Texas, Congressman Maury Maverick of San Antonio spoke for the bill and voted for it. According to reports from Representative Maverick's office, he did not receive a single protest from his district on account of his stand on the anti-lynching bill. The San Antonio Express, The Fort Worth Press, and The Houston Press have advocated the passage of a federal anti-lynching bill and have heard no appreciable protest or adverse reaction from their readers.

In a negative way it should be taken into account that no worthwhile daily of Texas has put up any active fight against the anti-lynching bill. For a long time demagogues like Senator Connally of Texas were able to arouse Southern fears by the old bugaboo of Negro dominance and Negro menace to the virtue of white women. While the old school of the older citizens are still likely to become nervous and angry when the questions are raised, the younger people see these oratorical rackets for what they are, namely, political tricks to stir the emotions and blind the hearers so that they will not see straight.

Not many people are fooled by the argument that Congress is wasting time considering the anti-lynching bill and should "get down to business." Neither are many people moved by the argument that the North should first stop lynching before attempting to pass an anti-lynching law. Even the old threadbare argument of the invasion of states rights has failed to blind the people in this instance. Not only is Texas in favor of an anti-lynching law, but a survey conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion showed that 67% of all Southerners favored an anti-lynching law. The accumulation of repeated lynchings has nullified the old argument that the South is able to take care of its problem and will work it out themselves. The women of the South, and a vast majority of the citizens under the age of 40, believe that it will take a federal law to permanently and effectively stamp out this evil.

The significance of this attitude of the majority of the citizens ow Texas and of the South cannot be exaggerated. For if the sentiment was not in favor of an anti-lynching law, it would not do a great deal of good to pass the law. But with the sentiment in favor of the law, it will be enforced and backed up, and the officials who will have to execute it will have the support of the community. By agreement the anti-lynching bill will be taken up again January 6. No doubt, Senator Connally will again expose his shriveled soul to public gaze in another filibuster, but Texas is for the bill.

Ft. Myers, Fla., News Press
December 19, 1937

Lynchings Since 1882

Statistics produced in conection with the anti-lynching bill in congress dating back to 1882 show that 3,679 human lives were sacrificed by mobs in this country during these fifty-five years. Of the victims, 2,979 were negroes. The rest, 700, were whites. Every state in the Union but seven has contributed one or more human sacrifices to mobs which took the law into their own hands. These seven states are Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Vermont. Mississippi leads all states with a total of 485 lynchings; Georgia has 469 to answer for; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 348; Arkansas, 241; and Tennessee, 210. — Wall Street Journal.

Dillon. S C., Herald
December 16, 1937

Different Forms of Lynch Law

THE Herald sees no reason why the south should get excited over the proposed anti-lynching law. There is no reason to believe that the bill is aimed at the south.

Lynch law is both morally and legally wrong. It flaunts defiance in the face of the courts, and tends to create disrespect for and break down the barriers of justice. Every human being charged with a crime is entitled to and should have the benefit of trial by jury.

Lynch law doesn't merely mean stringing a man up to the limb of a tree and riddling his body with bullets. That is the method used in the south, but there are various forms of lynching.

Deliberately shooting an unarmed man to death without warning is a form of lynch law. In the large cities of the north where gangsters are numerous the crime of lynching is more prevalent than in the south or elsewhere in the nation. Men meet in groups and deliberately plan the blotting out of some person or a rival gangster. The method generally used is to take the victim "for a ride."

These gangster killings in the north outnumber lynchings in the south probably five to one. The penalties to be imposed by the proposed law will fall heavily on New York and Chicago where gangdom thrives and lynchings make a mockery of the law.

Hazelhurst, Miss. Courier
December 23, 1937

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

The press reports that agreement was reached in the Senate on last Monday, to bring up for action the Anti-Lynching Bill on January sixth, three days after the new session begins.

The idea of the President, as it is reported, is to bring this proposal up for immediate action and dispose of it, so that pressing legislation, to be proposed at the regular session can be put through.

This has as much sense to it as the Governor saying to the Legislature, we will first dispose of the matter of consolidating our counties and reducing the number to forty instead of eighty-two.

This has as much sense to it as telling a group of four men, representing the Baptist, Catholic, Holy Roller and Sons of David, faith to agree which faith was best, and then get busy on constructive work.

The Republicans and Democrats voted together to send the Wage-Hour bill back to committee, the Eastern Democrats are publicly talking about reprisals against the Farm Bill for Southern Democrats helping defeat the Wage-Hour bill.

Congress as a whole is much more interested in passing legislation to aid business, this being a subject close to the folks back home, and a subject the members are hearing about. But President Roosevelt has shown no sincere desire to encourage this interest.

It just doesn't make sense to throw fat on the fire, and expect calm deliberation.

There can only be one definite action guaranteed to take place, a filibuster by southern senators, which is as constructive and friendly as kicking a man's feet from under him on an icy pavement.

Grenada, Miss. Sentinel
December 17, 1937

INGLORIOUS PAGE IN AMERICAN HISTORY

Judge Lynch, after his own ruthless code, usurps the functions of prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner; he knows no law and recognizes no authority save to defy them. Men, becoming infected with temporary beastial insanity and blood-madness, rush to the kill.

Lynchings bring shame to Christian communities—but Federal restraint in the form of Federal meddling with the police powers of the States to the extent and manner prescribed in the pending anti-lynching bill would only mean another law for lynchers and mobsters to violate, and would not accomplish the results intended. The Government cannot legislate sanity and reason into minds and hearts of men gone mad.

While the crime of lynching occupies an inglorious page in American history, it does not rival in degree of infamy the low cunning of a few demagogs, alias honest men, who seek to arouse and use racial hatreds and sectionalism as a stalking horse for negro votes. On the other hand, sincere men and women support the measure solely on the premise that any move for curbing mob violence is better than no effort.

Why should we have Uncle Sam arrogate the role of policeman for the States' own private back alley? According to Florida's Senator Pepper, "There is plenty to talk about and there is plenty to do instead of wasting our time on something that is not one of the major problems of American public life."

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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 5, 1937

Kill That Bill!

UP in the county of Morgan, in the midst of the Tennessee Valley development, a hot New Deal newspaper, The Decatur Daily, is published. We do not infer, however, that the editorial page of The Decatur Daily is bound by any political ties. It is simply a matter of belief and The Decatur Daily, looking around at its fields and rivers, feels that the New Deal, and more particularly that phase of it dealing with the Tennessee Valley, has been a success. Therefore, The Decatur Daily is listed among the newspapers of Alabama as a New Deal sheet.

But the Decatur Daily knows when to balk and it knows when to squawk, and its squawk, we fear, has been even more violent than that of The Tuscaloosa News on a New Deal measure, aired in the North for the benefit of the South—namely, the anti-lynching bill.

So bitterly does The Decatur Daily feel about this bill that it will welcome a filibuster on the Supreme Court bill "if that means that the same tactics are going to be used to bring about the death of the federal anti-lynching bill."

"Right now, however," the Daily informs us, "we would like most of all to hear some old-fashioned, pure Southern democracy, yelled out loud on the Senate floor to the effect that senators from this part of the United States do not intend to have any such legislation as the anti-lynching bill rammed down their throats and that they intend to do something about it.

"We have a sneaking suspicion that the majority of Southerners are not going to be content with lip service in the fight on the lynching measure. A mere negative vote is not likely to be satisfying to them.

"There are more ways of killing a cat than choking it to death. Southerners have not forgotten that when other measures aimed at the South were up for passage in the Senate, there were representatives of the people there with sufficient courage and ability to defeat them. Frankly, Southern people are looking to their Southern senators to perform the same service for them now.

"There is nothing to be gained by talking about party solidarity, party loyalty, party success and all the rest of the tommyrot which will be poured into the ears of Southern senators in an effort to make them sell their birthright for a mess of political pottage.

"What we want is action! What we expect is action!

"The people of the South expect their senators to tear the lynching bill to pieces and senators who may have permitted their eyes to stray to foreign political fields had better take a look behind them at the people at home."

All of which we roundly applaud—and add this: The word from Washington is to the effect that an anti-lynching bill, already passed in the House and approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, will be adopted at this session, in one form or another. If and when this measure is adopted, however, we will not expect our senators to come back home with the plea that "we couldn't help it." They can help it, by filibuster, and if any man in the South challenges the propriety of a filibuster, we simply remind him that the conditions of the Reconstruction days would have been made permanent had not it been for this maneuver. The filibuster has worked in the past, and it will work now. The Senate does not dare to clamp down the cloture rule. It was afraid to use it on Huey Long. Surely it will be afraid to use it on the entire South.

The New Deal leadership of the East and Middle West, aided and abetted by a large faction of the Republican Party, has aped this anti-lynching thus far on its journey, and we blame them for it. But if that anti-lynching bill passes in the Senate, it will be the fault of the Southern men and Southern men alone. If they do not have the courage to fight this measure, aimed solely at the South and exempting violations of the law equally as repugnant in other parts of the country, they will receive the blame—and the South will make a point not to forget them when the next election rolls around.

'SYMPATHETIC' PROMISED LYNCH BILL

WASHINGTON, July 28.—(AP)—Senate proponents of anti-lynching legislation received assurance today from Majority Leader Barkley, Democrat, Kentucky, that he will give "sympathetic consideration" to their demands that the senate act on the issue this session.

In return, Senator Copeland, Democrat, New York, agreed to cease his efforts to pin the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynch bill on administration measures as a "rider."

ANTI-LYNCHING RIDER IS TABLED BY SENATE

WASHINGTON, July 26.—(AP)—The senate sidestepped consideration of anti-lynching legislation today.

It tabled, 41 to 34, a proposal by Senator Copeland, Democrat, New York, to add anti-lynch bill by Senators Wagner, Democrat, New York, and Van Nuys, Democrat, Indiana, be considered as amendment to the McCarran train-limit bill.

Southern senators shelved the issue with the aid of several other senate factions.

Lynching Act Revived With Sudden Coup

Senate Involved Anew In Row In Projected Federal Mob Statute

Wagner Triumphs

Issue Forced In Face Of Objections By Borah And Barkley To Proposed Law

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—(AP)—A motion to debate the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill caught administration leaders in the Senate napping today, upset their legislative program, and threatened to delay adjournment of Congress.

When they awoge to the situation the leaders sought to sidetrack the motion by adjourning—but their parliamentary move lost, 35 to 27.

With the revolt then clearly out of hand, Republican Leader McNary moved to recess and his motion carried, 36 to 23. This means the bill will be before the Senate again tomorrow, whereas an adjournment would have side-tracked it.

The net result wa sthat the Senate faced a bitter and perhaps lengthy fight over the measure, which the House already has passed.

Senator Wagner (D), New York, made the motion to take up the bill, and vowed that he would not withdraw it.

Democratic Leader Barkley, of Kentucky, protested that he had arranged a tentative program whereby Senator King (D), Utah, was to be recognized to take up a District of Columbia bill, and other measures were to follow that.

But Vice-President Garner interrupted to state that since Wagner was the only man who had arisen and asked for recognition from the chair, he had to be recognized.

Wagner said he did not want to disarrange th eprogram, but "I do not believe a bill of this importance ought to be set aside."

Barkley said he had no objection to consideration of the bill, but felt it should be taken up when it would not delay emergency measures. He suggested that Wagner had been "unfair" in making his motion.

Senator Clark (D), Missouri, quickly challenged aBrkley. He said a number of "shocking lynchings" made the bill extremely important emergency legislation."

Senator Borah (R), Idaho, then launched into a discussion of the constitutional phases of the legislation, asserting it would jeopardize the nation's dual system of government. He condemned some of the provisions as "perfectly outrageous."

"If you can go into a state and take charge of an individual or group of individuals who have committed a crime, and bring them under the Federal Government's jurisdiction," he said, "then the last vestige of local government will have disappeared."

Senator Minton (D), Indiana, cited the Supreme Court's Scottsboro, Ala., case decision that the State by excluding negro jurors had violated the due process clause of the constitution and therefore the negro rape defendants should have a new trial.

Borah quickly asserted the decision had "no relation whatever to Federal legislatoin," and was supported by Senator George (D), Georgia.

Lynching Bill Seen To Pass Next Session

Barkley Ends Dispute By Pledging Priority Of Measure In Senate

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.— (AP) — Administration leaders ended the struggle over the anti-lynching bill today by giving the measure preferred status for next session.

Senators Wagner (D), New York, and Van Nuys (D), Indiana, agreed to withdraw their motion for immediate consideration.

Majority Leader Barkley (D), Kentucky, faced with a filibuster by Southern senators which was upsetting all legislative plans, made the motion to give the bill right of way next year.

He said this meant the measure would be passed early in the next session, and become law. He said there were 70 votes for it in the Senate.

Several Southern senators objected strenuously to Barkley's motion. Senator Connally (D), Texas, complained against binding the next session with any "signed in the blood promises."

"This legislation is a fraud on its face," he said, asserting it was designed to give to a special group rights and privileges denied to others.

Accusing the proponents of merely seeking votes, he shouted:

"I'd rather go back home and practice law in the justice of the peace court than sacrifice my principles for a few votes."

Connally's argument that the bill is unconstitutional was supported by Senator Borah (R), Idaho, who asserted there is nothing in the constitution giving the Federal Government the right to go into a state and establish a civil liability for damages between citizens.

Pact Being Shaped On Crop Loans

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—(AP)—Members of the Senate agriculture committee expressed confidence tonight President Roosevelt would approve crop loans if Congress agreed to take up crop control legislation in the first week of the next session.

This arrangement would end the impasse between Mr. Roosevelt and farm blocs in both Houses demanding crop loans, thus easing the way to adjournment.

Senator Wallace told reporters yesterday the Government should not make loans to peg commodity prices without legislation to control production.

The agriculture committee today, after conferring in executive session with Wallace, approved a concurrent resolution which would bind both houses to make crop control legislation the first order of business next session.

Chairman Smith (D), South Carolina, said Wallace told the committee he thought this pledge would satisfy the President.

After disposing of the Bilbo resolution, the committee went into session tonight to consider crop subsidy plans before it.

These include a committee bill providing for loans on the basis of 10 cents a pound for cotton, 70 cents a bushel for wheat, 50 cents a bushel for corn, eight cents a pound for tobacco and 55 cents a bushel for rice.

Other commodities could be included on such a basis as the Commodity Corporation prescribed.

Also before the committee were bills by Senator Bilbo for a 12-cent cotton loan and by Senator Connally (D), Texas, for a direct 2 1-2 cents a pound subsidy for cotton.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
August 13, 1937

Anti-Lynch Bill Shelved

The Wagner Van Nuys anti-lynch bill, proposed as a means of giving the federal government authority to come into southern states, where lynchings occur, and prosecute those believed responsible, has been shelved for this session of congress.

Let us hope that it gets lost in the pigeon hole of unfinished business. It is discriminating and if placed into force would infringe upon state's rights and tend to destroy the principle of local government.

Southern states are capable of punishing those engaging in mob violence without the assistance or interference of the federal government.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
August 12, 1937

Evils of the Anti-Lynch Bill

While we are not among those who go around saying yes to everything our political leaders say or do in the halls of congress or out of the corridors of this law-making body, we are nevertheless impressed with a statement made in the senate yesterday by Senator Borah, Republican of Idaho, during debate on the Wagner-Van Nuys, anti-lynch bill, thrust upon the senate by the gentleman from New York.

Senator Borah, recognized as an authority on constitutional government and a student of the constitution, told the senate "If you can go into a state and take charge of an individual or group of individuals who have committed a crime, and bring them under the federal government's jurisdiction, then the last vestige of local government will have disappeared."

We agree with the senator and are naturally in accord with his views on this piece of legislation which would single out the south and discriminate against it because in the past there have been cases of mob violence. Lynchings today occur no more frequently in the south than do gang slayings and hoodlum massacres in the north and the west, yet we do not see the senate or its leadership becoming exercised over what goes on in the north.

The south is capable of handling its affairs where lynchings are involved. There are laws in every state in the south designed to discourage lynchings and mob violence and to punish those who stand charged with participating in mob action. These measures embody practically the same provisions of the act Messrs. Wagner and Van Nuys are attempting to saddle upon the south.

Such a measure would not only jeopardize the nation's dual system of government but would also constitute a serious infringement upon states rights and the rights of the people to govern themselves, and would serve to further destroy local government and work as another step toward the movement for centralization of control.

If the state courts of the south are adequate for handling such capital cases as murder, burglary, criminal assault and arson, then it stands to reason they are adequate for handling cases in which mob violence is involved. We do not need federal interference with our courts and law enforcement agencies and we do not need to be dominated to do something that is being accomplished so successfully—discouraging of lynchings.

If Senator Wagner and his group of sectional supporters want to render a service to the nation, then let them forget such discriminatory and right-revoking proposals at the anti-lynch bill and turn their attention to some of the really serious problems facing the nation.

The south can take care of lynching cases without dictation from the national capital or inferences by northern and eastern senators that we are not a law-abiding people. Such insults as the bill would thrust upon the south are so unnecessary that they are utterly ridiculous.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
August 19, 1937

RESTING BUT NOT DEAD

THE anti-lynch bill has gone over for the time being, due to the powerful opposition of Southern representatives but it is by no means dead. It will bob up at the next session with its advocates determined to achieve success at that time.

The struggle over this bill is interesting for several reasons, one being the light it throws upon the attitude of some public officials when they are torn between their duty to observe their oaths of office and their desire to curry favor with certain political groups.

Senator Borah, who could by no process of reasoning be charged with looking with tolerance upon law violations, has stated on more than one occasion that the pending act is clearly unconstitutional and has given his reasons for so stating. In this his position is unassailable, yet numerous members both of the house and senate continue to advocate this violation of the Constitution they are sworn to uphold.

The explanation, of course, is that they wish to retain their jobs and feel that they can best achieve this end by currying favor with the colored constituents in their districts. They would sacrifice the South to their own political advantage even though they sacrificed the Constitution in the same selfish gesture.

Meanwhile any person of normal intelligence should know that the cause of law enforcement is not going to be fostered by sending federal agents into the South to nose into matters that are purely the affairs of the state, or by attempting to punish whole communities and large groups of officials for the sins of a few vicious and misguided individuals. Such violations of the constitutional rights of the states will encourage rather than discourage disrespect for law.

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A Klan Attack Against The Anti-Lynching Bill

Marie Sullivan, arch-reactionary columnist on the Tory Herald Tribune, yesterday struck a tone that smacks of the Ku Klux Klan.

He called the Federal anti-lynching bill a "menace to the American form of government."

Further, he dragged out all the "states rights" and "unconstitutional" poppycock which the Southern reactionaries are using in their lynch filibuster against the bill in the Senate.

According to Sullivan, it's a "menace" to enforce the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments, a "menace" to protect the rights of the Negro people, a "menace" to wipe out the savage murder of innocent human beings—in short, a "menace" to enforce the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

The Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan could not have spoken more contemptuously of the constitutional rights of the Negro—and of the democratic rights of the American people.

And the Liberty League Herald Tribune, spokesman of the Republican reactionaries, made no comment on Sullivan's Klan outburst. It yelled "Klan, Klan, Klan" during the Black controversy, but it remains as silent as a tombstone while Senate reactionaries lynch the anti-lynching bill—and the Constitution.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
November 2, 1937

This Question Should Be Decided.

Eleven men and a woman have made first moves to appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court from jail sentences and fines imposed by a Circuit Judge who held them guilty of contempt of court on the ground that they violated an injunction issued during labor trouble at Covington some months ago. The injunction forbade more than six pickets to be at the gates of the Industrial Rayon Corporation, against which there was a strike, and otherwise restricted the activities of the strikers.

If the injunction was violated, those who violated it were, of course, in contempt of court and should expect to be punished for the offense. Sometimes court injunctions issued during labor strikes have seemed unfair to the strikers, and the Covington strikers may have considered this injunction unfair, but they should have obeyed it. The courts must be respected, regardless of the fact that they may appear to make mistakes. An injunction issued by a Judge is law while it stands, and resistance to the law not only is not to be defended but entails a penalty.

Four of these defendants at Covington already have been convicted by juries of violating the Virginia anti-lynching law and have been given prison sentences ranging from nine months to four years. They were charged with attacking non-strikers at the rayon plant, and they were guilty of the charge. They precipitated a fight by attempting to prevent non-strikers from working and should receive punishment of some kind. The right to work is as sacred as the right to strike.

But the strikers at Covington, including these four, did not constitute a mob within the meaning of the anti-lynching law. Nor did they kill or attempt to kill anybody. No one was seriously hurt in the fight at the gates of the rayon plant, and conviction of the four strikers under the anti-lynching law would seem to have been a perversion of the statute. There have been reports that an offer was made to suspend the prison sentences of the four men if they would accept lighter sentences for violation of the injunction limiting the activities of the strikers, but that they declined the offer and determined to appeal their cases.

It is well that these four defendants will ask the State Supreme Court to say whether the anti-lynching law can be invoked in cases of strike disorders. It is important that the High Tribunal decide that question. The purpose of the anti-lynching statute was to put an end to mob murders, but if it can be so interpreted as to apply to disturbances between strikers and non-strikers in a labor dispute, or between other persons or groups of persons, it should be amended by the next General Assembly.

Banquo's Ghost

LIKE Banquo's Ghost of old, the anti-lynching measure on the calendar of Congress, listed as number two item, arises to trouble the enemies of justice and protection of Negro life in the deep South. In itself, however, it is without either portent or power, but the purpose—the basic idea underlying its authorship—is spiritually powerfull enough to arouse thinking men and women of both sections of this country, although no two individuals may look upon it in the same light. Its enemies, the preponderant number of whom are southerners, of course, oppose it more out of an adherence to a putrified tradition than they do out of a well defined reason. Their objection to its enactment is at once an illogical misconception of what is the right of a citizen living under the aegis of the American union of states. They point to it as an illegitimate intruder upon the personal rights of a dominant class of citizens who are yet reluctant to discard the barbarity of something worse than heathenism for the humanity of true civilization.

On the other hand, those who favor the bill, in certain instances, have gone to as great extremes, oppositely, of course, as have its enemies. Some believe it, if and when it is enacted into federal law, will be a panacea for all the mobocratic ills that now afflict the South. This is hardly true. For, while a federal anti-lynch law may have a salubrious effect upon infrequency to mob action, it should not be expected to magically change the spirit of the men who form mobs overnight. Even the victory of the boys in blue could not and did not change the spirit of the South to the degree where it metamorphosed race hatreds into inter-racial love and brotherly communion. The spirit of man is beyond the power of laws and wars—today, as well as yesterday.

Nevertheless, every lover of justice should hope for the enactment of the present anti-lynch bill. It is hardly possible that it will make conditions any worse than they now are as relates to the Negro's treatment in the South. And it IS possible that federal legislation of this nature will serve as a check to the present unbridled spirit of mobocracy rampant in the South. Even Banquo's Ghost served a good purpose.

Fools

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—The Senate side-tracked the administration program today as it prepared to take up the controversial anti-lynching bill. —The Associated Press.

What idiocy and callous impudence!

Passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill would not contribute any weapon that civilization needs to fight the evil, but would lead to many injustices to the innocent.

Anybody who believes that a Federal grand jury or a Federal petit jury in Alabama, or Florida, or Georgia, or Mississippi, would be more aggressive in punishing mob murderers than jurymen from a State circuit, is full of sour prunes.

It seems to The Advertiser that any man of sense should know that what one Alabama juryman thinks and feels another Alabama juryman would think and feel, whether he is summoned to the Federal building or the county courthouse.

The proposed anti-lynching bill would impose heavy fines upon counties whose sheriffs permitted lynchings. That would prove expensive to taxpayers, but would it cool the flaming passions of mob-killers? Would it?

No, the Federal government can do no more than the State governments are doing to quell the mob spirit because of the fact that Federal jurymen are the neighbors and friends of State jurymen. But in the North politicians know that anti-lynching agitation is "good medicine," and so they are making the most of their opportunities, while the American people as a whole suffer bitterly because of basic economic ills.

A politician regards it as his first duty to be re-elected, not to save his country, and Congress is packed with politicians. If pending anti-lynching legislation delays consideration of far graver measures, those who are responsible for the crime against society should be appropriately stigmatized.

Any politician in Congress who takes refuge in the phony anti-lynching bill to delay passage of national economic legislation is a fool.

Congress is in a nasty mood and is prepared in its heart to fight the President to the bitter end. We do not quite understand this mood, because it is obvious that the President today is the most powerful politician in America. He is still the most inspirational leader of the Western

world. Yet Congress is preparing to gut him. Mark the prediction!

Distressed agriculture continues to be the primary concern of every honest and thoughtful person in public life. Until agriculturists are put on their feet, nobody else can hope to walk without the benefit of a cane.

American genius will at last solve the problems of American agriculture, or the people of this country will have to accept a permanent lower standard of living, and like it as well.

American business has a right to expect the White House to be on its side, but until now American business has believed that the White House was hostile to it. All of the rhetoric issuing from the White House has been disturbing to harassed and beaten business men—until now.

Now the President seems conciliatory. Lately he has consulted business men and in his message to Congress he speaks respectfully of them. That's a help.

Taxation must be reconsidered! The American surplus must be preserved!

Agriculture must be stabilized, probably by force, as Senator Bankhead demands!

Any politician in Congress who breaks faith with the American people by occupying the time of his colleagues with a discussion of lynching instead of basic economic measures affecting the whole people is, as we have said, a fool.

The republic of our fathers languishes! Patriotism and common decency are the issues of this hour.

Anti-Lynching Parley Slated

Special to The Commercial Appeal

DURANT, Miss., Dec. 1.—A state Anti-Lynching Institute will be held here tomorrow and Friday under the auspices of the State Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The association seeks to reduce lynching and mob violence through a program of education.

Among organizations in Mississippi committed to a program of education are the Diocese of Mississippi, Episcopal Church, the North Mississippi Methodist Conference, the Mississippi Federation of Women's Clubs; Mississippi W. C. T. U. and the Mississippi and North Mississippi Women's Missionary Societies of the Methodist Church.

SENATE ARGUMENTS AGAINST LYNCH BILL ANALYZED

Pine Bluff Commercial 12-3-37 Memphis Press-Scimitar

New York, Dec. 3.- All the arguments advanced against a federal anti-lynching bill in the Senate during the filibuster from November 16-22 have been analyzed carefully by members of the legal committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and replies have been formulated for the debate which is certain to be taken up again when the anti-lynching bill reaches the floor about December 10. The Congressional Record was used by the legal committee in analyzing the arguments. Those present at an afternoon and evening session here in New York were: Arthur B. Spingarn, national chairman of the N.A.A.C.P. legal committee; William F. Illig, Erie, Pa.; Leon A. Ransom, Washington, D. C.; Charles H. Tuttle, Herbert K. Stockton, Hubert T. Delany, all of New York City; and Charles H. Houston and Thurgood Marshall of the national office legal staff.

Anti-Lynching Bill Reveals Sectional Differences

Christian Century

SENATORIAL debate on the anti-lynching bill has been marked by a filibuster which is criticized by administration supporters as holding up the President's program, by the maiden speech of Senator Dixie Graves, who owes her seat in the Senate to appointment by her husband, the governor of Alabama, and by the rift which the topic developed between northern and southern Democrats. A filibuster in the Senate is not startling news. Neither is there any particular novelty in such a speech as that of Mrs. Graves to the effect that "I hate lynching, but —," with the stress of the argument not upon the admitted evil but upon the invasion of state rights that would be involved in an application of federal power to abate it. The new feature of the situation is that, perhaps on account of the increased number of Negro voters in many northern constituencies, where the Negroes really do vote, the bill has won such strong support from northern Democratic senators that there is a prospect of its passage. This sectional tension within the party came to a climax in the heated interchange between Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, one of the authors of the bill, who defied anyone to "produce" a longer record of loyalty to the Democratic party" than his own, and Senator Smith of South Carolina who replied: "And now you wash it all out by attempting to humiliate the section which kept the Democratic party alive." It is, of course, mere rhetoric to say that anybody wants to humiliate anybody by the passage of this measure. It is equally far from the facts to assert that the differences of attitude toward it reflect any basic difference of opinion in regard to the sovereignty of states. Southern Democrats were, for example, much more ready than northern Democrats to concede to the federal government the right to prohibit the liquor traffic. But the debate on the federal anti-lynching bill touches the sharp edge of a political reality when it comes up against the fact that southern senators have more Negroes in their states while northern senators have more voting Negroes in theirs.

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Eupora, Miss. Progress
April 22, 1937

Anti-Lynching Legislation

Now pending in the national Congress is the so-called Gavagan Anti-lynching Bill.

From time to time during the past few years anti-lynching bills have been introduced in the national Congress but have been successfully filibustered against by Southern lawmakers and kept off the statute books. At present there are 59 such bills pending in Congress, with the Gavagan proposal already having passed the House by a 277 to 119 vote.

The present bill provides that officers permitting a prisoner to be taken from them by a mob shall be subjected to a fine of $5,000 and five years in prison. There is a further provision that counties in which the prisoner is seized might be subjected to damages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000, payable to the victim's family. Officers would be tried in a federal court if state officers failed to prosecute within 30 days, or in the event the federal judge is convinced the state court would be partial.

Such a measure as that proposed by Congressman Gavagan, representative of a large negro district in New York City, we feel would be undesirable.

The bill in operation would in many cases, no doubt, punish a victim of the mob, the sheriff, and not the actual offenders. Instead of going out and punishing the mobsters such a measure merely strikes feebly at one of the actors in mob drama, the officers who in most instances are helpless in the face of the temporarily insane mass which is a mob.

The Gavagan act, by the provision providing for payment of damages to the victim's family, penalizes a whole county for the act of a few people To a poor county, such as our own, $10,000 would be a staggering sum, especially at a time when taxes are already unbearable, and an assessment of such damages to a whole county, often out of sympathy with and actually condemning mob murder, is grossly unjust.

Over-looked, or at least unheeded by the proponents of anti-lynching legislation, is the fact that a mob murder is the same as any other murder, the only difference being in the number of persons carrying out the overt act, and that all states have laws punishing murderers. The law doesn't even hit at the mob ring leaders, who are actually responsible, and who are the actual murderers. Such legislation acts to correct only a small factor, that is the laxity in some cases of officers, and allows the actual perpetrators to go unpunished.

Officers have in many cases been unwise in their handling of persons accused of heinous crimes and some officers may have been actual accomplices to lynchings by turning prisoners over too readily to mobs, but when a small group of officers is confronted by several hundred temporarily insane people they are virtually helpless. Resistance would often result in only more bloodshed.

With fear of the expense to the county and fear of personal punishment, if the Gavagan act passes, county officers throughout the nation would be continually after state governors to send in the state militia to protect prisoners. Mississippi cannot afford to bear the expense of National Guard conducted trials and she should not be made to do so., Mob murders are brutal, but they are not nearly so brutal as the almost daily fiendish slayings of men, women and children carried out by some insane man. Mob murders are infrequent in comparison with other types of murders, and states should not be made to bear the expense which the Gavagan act calls for because a few people go temporarily wild now and then.

Anti-lynching legislation is psychologically unsound. It will not be worth one iota as a mob preventative. Backers of such measures disregard the fact that mob craze is a state of insanity and that the men who make up a mob will not stop to consider money cost to their county or punishment to their sheriff when bent upon seizing some hapless prisoner. And if the bill won't help prevent lynchings, and it evidently will not, what's the use of forcing it upon us? Laws are passed not only to punish guilty persons, but to serve as preventative measures as well.

But above all, even if such legislation could be effective and we feel that it cannot, is the fact that it is a tryannical and unwarranted invasion of state's rights, sacred to every Southerner and every true American.

Anti-lynching legislation would extend the ever out-reaching hand of Federal jurisdiction too deeply into the states, and would usurp state handling of a matter affecting only a few people in a small section of a state. States have always held inviolate the power of removing from office and punishing their officials. County officers are not federal officials in any sense, and their relations with the people should be determined by the state or by the people making up their constituency. The Federal constitution expressly provides that in all matters not expressly placed under Congressional jurisdiction or prohibited to the state the states or the people shall have jurisdiction. From this provision it is evident that Federal trial and Federal punishment of county officials is an absolutely

favor it, whether believing in it or sponsoring it for political motives, are not in sympathy with state's rights and consequently cannot be in sympathy with the system of government which our forefathers did so much to establish and which we have sought to protect.

If we are to allow the national government to step in and interfere with our legal procedures in this manner we might as well turn our judiciary over to the Federal government. The Gavagan act is undoubtedly a step toward complete Federal autocracy and dominance. Under the act U. S. district judges are authorized to determine whether or not they think trial would be conducted properly and impartially in state courts and if not, in their opinion, to call for trial in the Federal courts, thus making of the Federal court system the "tyrannical oligarchy" which Thomas Jefferson said it would become.

The motive behind anti-lynching bills has not been one of humanitarianism but has been purely a political move to gain support of the large negro bloc in the north. Anti-lynching legislation is unsound, un-American and unwarranted. Those who

Columbia, S. C. Record
May 14, 1937

Mississippi's Part.

It will be interesting to see what the senate does with the anti-lynching bill, already passed by the house, the enactment of which was a campaign promise to the negro voters in many Northern states last year. Southern members in the house and senate are almost hysterical in their opposition. House members are still making speeches about it in the Congressional Record. Representative Rankin, of Mississippi, has a long speech from which may be quoted:

"This bill is not a new proposition. It is simply the old force bill of carpetbag days in a little different form. In those days it was sponsored by corrupt Republican carpet baggers—the most vicious set of thieves that ever plundered and murdered the helpless white people of the Southern states . . .

"A few demagogues on the Republican side brought this measure in and shoved it through the house in 1922. The more decent members of that party became ashamed of it and let it die in the senate. Today the measure is brought here fostered by an irresponsible element of so-called Democrats for the purpose of taking care of their own political hides at home."

Representative Rankin should not however overlook the very important role played by Mississippi's lynching record in promoting and encouraging the enactment of the anti-lynching bill. Every unpunished lynching—and when was there a punished lynching in Mississippi?—is an argument for federal intervention.

"A blow torch," as the Danville (Va.) Register puts it, "is more convincing than logic."

Prattville, Texas. Progress
May 17, 1937

Topics of the Day

THE INCORRIGIBLE BILBO

Theodore G. Bilbo, not satisfied with having seriously handicapped Mississippi's system of higher education, is now upset because a group of Millsaps College students petitioned him to vote for the Gavagan anti-lynching bill. And the senator demands an investigation of all student organizations to smoke out what he says is Communistic activity on the Millsaps campus.

Millsaps College, fortunately, is not a state institution, and when Bilbo, as governor, reorganized the state college and university system in Mississippi he was unable to interfere at Millsaps. Perhaps the senator has been waiting for an opportunity to take a crack at this institution which has been beyond his sphere of influence. And just because a group of students ask him to support an anti-lynching bill Bilbo goes into a dither and roars that students have been "misled, misguided and deceived" into joining a Communist organization.

President Key, of Millsaps College, is to be congratulated for his forthright statement upholding the students' right to "express their views to their senator on a question before the Congress that concerns them as citizens. I believe that the views expressed may possibly be erroneous, but that they are not a legitimate ground for public protest and criticism."

That is a sensible and logical answer to a senator who seems only remotely acquainted with logic.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Sylacauga, Ala., News
May 7, 1937

ALABAMA STATESMAN

In a recent issue of the Selma Times-Journal appeared the following article from the Honorable Hobson Owen Murfee, distinguished educator of Alabama on the address of Congressman Hobbs in the discussion of the Anti-Lynching Bill before Congress:

Editor, Times-Jaurnal:

A Federal Anti-lynching Bill designed to usurp States' Rights and to destroy constitutional guarantees of freedom was introduced in the present Congress by Representative Gavagan of New York. After debate, this Bill was passed in the House on April 15 by a vote of 277 for, to 119 against.

To the honor of Alabama, every member of the House from Alabama voted against this unwise measure. To the honor of Alabama, the most notable speech against this bill was made by Congressman Hobbs who now wears worthily the mantle of Senator John Tyler Morgan. He would be an honor to The Senate as he is now an honor to the House.

Congressman Hobbs said in part:

"This bill is a rape of justice. This bill is itself the rope with which this mob would lynch the constitutional guarantees which we have cherished through the years. This bill is not an anti-lynching bill. It is a prolynching bill. It will stimulate that dying, almost extinct, disgrace to our civilization-lynching.

"All good citizens glory in the progress we have made towards the goal of a land completely cleared of the stigma of lynching. Even one is a disgrace to civilization. All of us feel that way. But while some have been risking their lives to prevent mob violence, others introduce bills.

"There is not a man in this Chamber, not a man in either branch of Congress, who is not against lynching. Scarcely a citizen in the whole nation fails to condemn it. I respectfully submit, therefore, that this resort to mob violence to lynch the Constitution by the passage of this outrageius law should not be sanctioned and that the pending motion should be voted down. (Applause.)

::Does the spirit of mob violence which is driving this bill through this House make it right? No, It is just as wrong as the hinges of hell; it is just as wrong as any action that was ever taken by a mob, judged by the morals of the situation. You have the votes; you have the power, but you have not the right! (Applause)

In these splendid final words, Congressman Hobbs speaks with soberness and with truth "the authentic voice of the best political thought of the English race." Thus Woodrow Wilson praised the immortal Edmund Burke who said likewise:

"'The eternal rules of justice and reason are above not only the will of eletorates, but above all orders of the State."

"The votes of a majority of the people, whatever their infamous flatters may teach in order to corrupt their minds, cannot alter the moral any more than they can alter the physical essence of things."

"Neither the few nor the many have a right to act merely by their will in any matter connected with duty, trust, engagement, or obligation."

This is the wisdom of Edmund Burke, of Woodrow Wilson, and of Congressman Hobbs of Alabama.

Hopson Owen Murfee.
Prattville, Ala., April 20, 1937.

Orlando, Fla., Morning Sentinel
November 15, 1937

MORE FEDERAL POWER

Thruout Orange County and Florida speeches are being made and letters written favoring a Federal anti-lynching act which may be bitterly debated in this special session of Congress opening Monday.

Senator Charles O. Andrews seems to sum up the matter rightly when he stated recently: 'Nobody would want disorder such as is shown in a lynching but it is up to the State to enforce these laws and not the Federal Government."

In other words lynching is home rule, a home problem, a local matter which must be settled at home; a condition which is gradually lessening; a strictly Southern affair where two races are living under happy conditions unduplicated elsewhere in the world.

"Members of the Senate and the House and the best of the South are not in favor of lynching, but when it comes to the Federal Government arming itself with a law that would nullify the sanctity of States rights that is something different," continues Senator Andrews.

Federal control and centralization of power is becoming so pernicious that, if it keeps going, State's Governors, cabinets and administrations may as well go out of business, leaving to bureaus and commissions at Washington the power to regulate and dictate affairs in precincts and counties.

There can and will be no solution of a strictly local problem by throttling home control by a 3,000-mile long police billy wielded by Uncle Sam who so far cannot solve matters of finance, unemployment and relief, labor. Solving the big things should come first not adding confusion to State affairs.

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SPECULATE ON ATTITUDE
OF WHITE HOUSE

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

Washington, Nov. 5.- As the time for the special session of Congress draws near, there is much speculation upon the attitude of the White House toward the federal anti-lynching bill, scheduled as the number two item of business on the Senate calendar. Ever since 1934 President Roosevelt has indicated informally on many occasions that he is against lynching and willing to see the federal government try to put a stop to mob violence. But while the President has condemned lynching, he has never given his personal blessing in a formal statement to a federal anti-lynching bill. During the last session it was stated im Washington that the White House was known to favor an anti-lynching bill, but no public statement of that attitude has ever been made in a press conference or to Senate and House leaders officially. 11-5-37 Newspaper, Dayton

The section of the public which is supporting this legislation believes that the President is friendly, but there has been from time to time considerable criticism because he has failed to speak out. It has been thought by observers here that the President might use the Justice Black episode (without referring directly to it) as an opportunity to reassure the minority groups that his position on civil liberties, and especially on protection from mob violence, has not changed.

Houston, Miss. Post
November 4, 1937

With Other Editors

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL
(Columbus Commercial Dispatch)

Under the heading, "Not Worth the Price," the Lynchburg, Va., News, published by Senator Carter Glass and Sons, prints this intelligent discussion of the proposed anti-lynching bill:

When the congress adjourned in August there remained on the program several measures advocated by the president, including one which, while not on the "must" list, had received his approval. This was the so-called anti-lynching bill and it held preferred place on the calendar. It will be one of the first measures to be considered when the special session is convened and the general impression seems to be that it will be passed by both houses and, of course, signed by the president.

There are several reasons for belief that passage is virtually certain, several things that make its passage virtually certain. They are:

1—There are votes in it. The negro has been emigrating into the northern and middle western sections of the country for some time. He is a power in the politics in those sections. His vote is angled for by all candidates for office; in some sections united opposition of the negro vote is decisive; no candidate can be elected under that circumstance. It has been true for some time but there has been a difference. Until recently the negro vote was solidly republican and where it was large democratic candidates had little chance. Knowing that the negro vote was unattainable, or unexpected, democratic members of the congress have been willing for the most part to go along with the southern members in opposition to "anti-lynching" legislation. However demagogic they might be they couldn't hope to profit much in that direction. They left sponsorship of "anti-lynching" legislation to the republicans. That was their game. Now it is different. The negro vote is divided; the negro is growing more independent. Democrats as well as republicans angle for his support, and a fine bait in sections in which there is an important negro vote is to shout and vote for "anti-lynching" legislation. So they are shouting and they are going to vote for it—and there are more northern and western democrats than there are southern democrats.

2—Liberalism has become a fetish. To be considered liberal is de riguer. And, for some strange reason, advocacy of increased federal government powers has come to be a hall mark of this spurious liberalism. Furthermore, humanitarianism and liberalism have become confused and because humanity revolts at lynching anything that is labeled a measure to prevent lynching wins approval. This brings to the measure both the wishful thinkers and the demagoguges who hope to profit politically by pretense of liberalism and of humanitarianism.

3—President Roosevelt supports it. Members of the congress from the south who have never favored anti-lynching legislation because of lack of interest in the welfare of the negro will now vote for such legislation because it has received the approval of the president. The rubber stamp element of the congress will be for it.

4—Local self-government, from being a fetish, has become anathema to those who like to think of themselves as modern. The doctrine of state's rights is old-fashioned, therefore is to be jeered at. The fundamental principle, that of keeping government close at home, is lost sight of. Anything to obtain desired ends! Anything to be up-to-date!

That the passage of "anti-lynching" legislation will have any appreciable effect upon the mob has never been demonstrated. Even those who are so horrified at assaults upon civilization and the inherent rights of individuals to fair trial that they forget the price that must be paid for vesting police powers in a central government and for giving that central government powers of coercion have never been able to argue convincingly that after paying the price the supposed benefits will be reaped. They can only hope. The states have not prevented lynching, they point out, and so they are willing to try something else.

The News would be frank about this matter. It doesn't

fected, what is to be the end when there are votes in it? And whence does the federal government derive the power to deprive a state of its rights because it has neglected to perform its duties? To admit that there is a power to correct and to save the states from themselves is to deny to the states any rights the central government may wish to deny them. It is to re-write the constitution so as to eliminate the provision reserving to the states the rights not granted the central government and make that provision read: "The powers not delegated to the states by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the United States, are reserved to the United States."

And that would mean the end of the federal government and the substitution of a central government without constitutional restrictions worthy the name upon its powers. There are those who desire such a government, but those who do not thirst after a spurious liberalism, who believe the essence of true liberalism is opposition to coercive government must look upon all legislation threatening its establishment with apprehension, no matter what rosy promises of immediate good are held out.

Editor Virginius Dabney, of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, believes (1) that a federal anti-lynching bill is going to be passed and (2) that the South isn't going to mind it as much as some southerners think. We move to add (3) that it isn't going to cut half the good most Northern liberals think it will do and its passage is going to rob these gentlemen of an issue they made a test of liberalism so long that they will miss it terribly. Lynching, already on the way out in the south, will disappear altogether when and only when southern public opinion and southern economic conditions are right.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
November 9, 1937

ANOTHER STEP TO BREAK DOWN THE COLOR LINE

The anti-lynching bill in its present shape is even worse than the political opponents of it have stated it was. The bill would provide for the collection of ten thousand dollars from the county in which it occurred and the payment of that sum to the widow or relatives of the deceased.

Therefore it would seem that the penalty to be inflicted is to be widespread, divided equally among the taxpayers, regardless of their complicity or even knowledge of the crime and it is usually the case that the mob is composed of ninety-nine, who pay no taxes and one who may have a small tax bill.

The use of the money for the widow of the deceased is another form of farce. The relatives may come in for it and they may sometimes join the mob to lynch him in order to share the wealth. The jolt comes with the sheriff or his officers who do not prevent the lynching. No matter what he may do to prevent it, unless he succeeds, off comes his official head. If he dies in defense of the prisoner he may not be summarily disgraced. Unless he does he will be, no matter what the odds.

This subject is one on which we often come close to seeing red because it is so patently a partisan and splenetic feeling on the part of those who are just as guilty of criminal negligence and carelessness as the southern people who permit lynchings. The manslaughters committed in other sections are as disgraceful as any other form of public crime. We are all guilty in a sense to encouraging crime by not having the guts to stamp it out by the aid personal activity and participation in the procedure.

The call for the bill is born in hate, sectional partisanship of the vilest type and is but another step to break down the color line, something that no end of fines and lynchings combined can ever bring about.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
November 5, 1937

The Antilynching Bill

[*Chattanooga Times*]

THE Washington correspondent of The New Republic writes in the magazine's current issue that it has been reported for weeks that the Southern senators "would secretly like to see the antilynching bill pass." Concerning the Southerners, the correspondent adds:

"They will pretend to filibuster against it, but they will take pains to see that the filibuster fails. In this way anti-New Deal Southerners hope to gain an issue to use against the Administration in next year's primaries. Men who must stand for re-election—for example, Senator George of Georgia—are said to feel that white supremacy is almost the only issue on which they can defeat pro-Roosevelt rivals."

That is interesting, to be sure, but it does not make too much sense. The same writer comments that "probably a majority of the Southern congressmen are hostile to Mr. Roosevelt and his policies," yet "they show no signs of letting themselves be pushed into open rebellion." If, as The New Republic's correspondent believes, Southerners in Congress are working against the Administration's wages-and-hours bill, and perhaps against the farm bill, "while simultaneously protesting doglike devotion to Mr. Roosevelt's person," they will be likely to protest the same "doglike devotion" if the antilynching bill is enacted.

One does not have to imagine that the Southern senators are, as a group, particularly high-minded in order to discount The New Republic's explanation of why Southern opposition to antilynching legislation is less vociferous than it has been. The South has refused to deal with the problem. Federal antilynching legislation would not stand a chance of passage if the South could show that a single State has followed Virginia's lead in dealing effectively with mob violence.

Anti-Lynching Bill Assailed by Knox

JESUP, Ga., Nov. 17 (AP)—Superior Judge Gordon Knox told the grand jury today that the anti-lynching bill now before congress "is unfair, unjust and uncalled for. The present bill is a damnable proposition," he said.

He praised the state highway patrol and stated he thought it a wise move. He also commended officers of the patrol.

R. M. Milliken, ex-mayor of Jesup, was elected foreman of grand jury.

In his discussion of the anti-lynch bill, the judge emphasized he was "heartily in favor of blotting out lynching."

Shreveport, La., Times
November 14, 1937

Proposed Law Would Fine Counties Where Lynchings Occur

The federal lynch law controversy was pushed into the limelight early this year when the House of Representatives passed an anti-lynch bill sponsored by Representative Gavagan (D., N. Y.)

The Gavagan Bill, which will come before the Senate at this sitting, proivdes: (1) Fine or imprisonment for any peace officer who fails to make "all diligent efforts" to protect a prisoner from a lynch mob; (2) Imprisonment for any peace officer who conspires to turn a prisoner over to a mob; (3) Damages of $2,000 to $10,000 to be assessed against any county in which a prisoner has been seized by a mob or in which a lynching occurs. The damages thus collected are to be turned over to the lynch victim, if he survives, or to his "legal representatives." A number of other anti-lynching bills which are also pending before congress, notably the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, contain much the same provisions.

Opposition to a federal lynch law is not confined to Southern members of congress. Senator Borah of Idaho has also opposed federal action on constitutional grounds. But the main arguments against the lynch bill have been put forward by Southern Senators. Senator Bailey of North Carolina summed up the case when he said recently:

"What power has the federal government over a sheriff in North Carolina? The sheriff is responsible to North Carolina, and when you destroy that responsibility you destroy free government."

Those who favor federal action base their case on the Fourteenth Amendment, which provides that "no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws." The proponents of a congressional lynch law claim that since a lynching violates the provisions of this amendment the federal government has a right to step in.

The public's vote in favor of federal action is undoubtedly influenced by the enormous publicity given to lynchings. Actually, however, many more lynchings are prevented by vigilant local officers than are carried out. In 1935, the latest year for which records are available, there were 53 instances in which the police prevented mob action, as against 20 successful lynchings. And the 20 lynchings of 1935 represent a sharp decline from a generation ago. In 1901 there were 130.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5732

aneville, N. C., Times
October 18, 1937

As Well Face The Music

WHETHER they like it or not, Southerners may as well prepare for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching law within the next several months. This is the counsel of Virginius Dabney, Editor of The Richmond Times-Dispatch in his article published yesterday in The Citizen-Times.

But Mr. Dabney says that the majority of the South approves this further centralization of federal authority, that most of the leading newspapers favor it, the others for the most part being neutral. Passing over the importance of the subject itself, the most interesting feature of Mr. Dabney's description of this situation is his account of the shift of Southern sentiment in the last twenty years.

Two decades ago, Mr. Dabney pictures the newspapers almost unanimously "pawing the air" at the very thought of such a law. Southern legislators voting for an anti-lynching bill would have been deluged with protests. Representative Maury Maverick of Texas, the only Congressman from the deep South who supported the House bill, reports that he heard not a single outcry from his constituents of the San Antonio district.

The Times belongs to the minority that deplores the imminence of this legislation. But Mr. Dabney accurately presents the major cause at work in the minds of the people—in 99 per cent. or more of lynching cases no punishment ever has been meted out. When local authority virtually abdicates, federal authority moves in.

rew, Miss. Leader
October 21, 1937

That lynch law bill which will be presented in Congress at this extraordinary session is going to cause a rumpuss. Facts of the case it should not be presentd, and if it should the President should soft pedal it. It is a menace to the south. For down in the southern states rape means rope, and no power can stop it unless court immediately convenes and the penalty of death is given and takes place instanter.

Ruleville, Miss. Record
October 21, 1937

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instanter.

Danville, Va., Register
October 24, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Among the measures to receive early consideration by the special session of Congress that convenes on November 15 is what is known as the anti-lynching bill. The Senate, in the hurly-burly of adjournment in August, agreed to make it a special order of business at the next session and give it attention immediately after farm legislation is out of the way.

The bill passed the House by a considerable majority. A filibuster by Southern senators prevented it from reaching the stage of formal debate and a vote in the upper chamber. The consensus of well-informed opinion in Washington seems to be that the bill will be enacted into law at the special session. Not all of the Southern senators are opposed to it, and there are a number of influential newspapers in the South that are demanding its passage.

The proposed legislation, agitated in one form or another by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and politicians in the North with large negro constituencies, rests for its authority as a federal statute on the due-process and equal-protection provisions of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States. The claim of its proponents is that lynching deprives the victim of the protection guaranteed him under this clause. There is no argument on the point.

There are, however, provisions in the anti-lynching bill that raise serious doubt that the proposed law will prove effective in suppressing the crime of lynching. On that ground, if on no other, Southern senators have ample justification for opposing its enactment, even by resort to filibuster. Mob fury is a terrible thing and to oppose the pending law is not to to condone lynching, even when the provocation to wreak vengeance on the perpetrator of a hideous crime is great.

It is wholly unfair to impute unworthy motives to senators who oppose this bill. It may be that the states, not alone in the South, have failed to enact laws sufficiently stringent to prevent lynchings. Virginia has a very effective law dealing with the crime, enacted during the administration of Governor Byrd. It is no answer to the charge that the states have failed in their responsibilities to prevent violence by mobs to demand passage by the federal Congress of a bill containing such drastic, yet ineffective, provisions as are included in the measure under discussion.

The bill makes any county or city of a state liable to the next kin of a victim of lynching within its borders in the amount of not less than $2,000 or more than $10,000. On this point it provides that the compensation may be recovered in a civil action in the federal courts, and empowers the attorney general of the United States to bring and prosecute the suit.

The measure makes sheriffs, jailers and other officers of the state or its subdivisions who fail to prevent the lynching of a prisoner in their custody, or who fail to apprehend or prosecute members of a lynching mob, liable to a fine up to $5,000 and imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both.

The bill makes it the duty of the attorney general of the United States, when a lynching has occurred, to conduct an investigation to ascertain whether there has been a violation of the act.

The law would make the taxpayers liable for monetary damages for a lynching that might occur in a county, with a federal court empowered to try the case and enforce collection. Under it the sheriff of Pittsylvania or any other Virginia county would be subject to a fine and imprisonment by a federal court in the event he refused to shoot it out with a mob bent on taking and lynching a prisoner in his custody. Only by a preponderance of evidence that the sheriff had not neglected his duty could he escape punishment. Mobs, as a rule, do not send advance notices to the sheriff or jailer holding a prisoner sought by them that they are on their way. Usually the lynchers appear at the prison when the sheriff or jailer is alone and when they may be easily overpowered. Under the proposed law the officer, in these circumstances, would be expected to give his life in a futile effort to save his prisoner.

The proposal to make a county or other state subdivision liable for damages in the event of a lynching is a novel one in the administration of justice and, if approved by Congress will open up a pioneering field in law enforcement.

These are some of the actual provisions of the bill that make it objectionable. The principle involved in the measure does violence to the doctrine of state's rights, but of that little need be said because that old and sound theory of the relation-

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forgotten. Virginia and most of the Southern states
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The bill, while its objective
will not prevent lynchings

Lynching Measure Opposed by Cox

Telegraph

Representative Says Bill Is Communistic Movement

11-3-37

MOULTRIE, Ga., Nov. 2 (AP)—Congressman E. E. Cox says the proposed federal anti-lynching law is "a law against our people, born in hate and intended to be used as a communistic movement to break down the color line in the south."

The Second Georgia district representative speaking at the courthouse here said he opposed the bill at the regular session of congress because it would "extend into the state and local communities federal power to administer local laws."

He said the bill provides counties in which a lynching occurs are liable to relatives of the person lynched for damages and the sheriff may be charged with federal law violation if he does not intervene where it is within his power.

ANTI-LYNCHING DRIVE ANGERS DIXIE SOLONS

Petition Is Prepared to Bring Wages and Hours Measure to Lower Branch

Telegraph

REPUBLICANS JEER RIVALS

Failure to Have Farm Plans Completed Is at Root of Confused Situation

11-17-37

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 (AP)—Administration leaders helplessly watched their well-laid plans go awry today and President Roosevelt's special session program came to an abrupt, if temporary, halt.

In the senate, meantime, Southerners conducted an old-fashioned filibuster against anti-lynching legislation, adorned with the usual trimmings of full-throated oratory and lengthy reading from old congressional records.

In the house, while confusion got the better of Speaker Bankhead's gavel, Republicans spoke bitingly of calling a special session with no work ready to be done. Then they blocked an effort to adjourn until Friday.

The root of the difficulty was the fact that, while both houses had agreed to take up crop control legislation immediately upon reconvening, their agriculture committees were not ready to submit a bill for consideration on the floor.

The president had called for a farm bill, wage and hour legislation, government reorganization and regional planning, and had given a signal to go ahead with preliminary work on tax revision.

Reorganization Bill is Ready

Only government reorganization legislation was ready. House leaders decided yesterday that the time was inopportune for considering it, and in the senate the anti-lynching issue was interposed today.

The chairman of the committees which have charge of revenue legislation indicated that tax revision, which has been demanded as a means of encouraging business, might be deferred until January.

The wage and hour bill passed last session by the senate was still securely sewed up in the house rules committee, but an effort was begun today to rip it loose by means of a petition. If 218 signatures are obtained, the bill will go on to the floor automatically.

Chairman Norton (D.-N. J.) of the house labor committee instituted the action. At the beginning of the day's session she laid the petition on the speaker's desk and a long queue of representatives awaited an opportunity to sign.

Only 45 had the chance during the short session for signatures must be attached while the house is meeting. But, when the adjournment was taken, a sizeable line was still waiting.

Senate in Intricate Snarl

The senate, meeting for the first business day of the new session, quickly found itself tangled in an intricate parliamentary snarl.

The cause was that in addition to designating crop control as the first order of business, the senate had made the anti-lynching bill the second item upon its program.

Senator Barkley (D.-Ky.) the majority leader, tried in vain to work out a back-stage agreement with proponents of the anti-lynching measure, under which the senate could go ahead with the government reorganization bill of Senator Byrnes (D.-S. C.)

11-17-37

Byrnes, a bitter foe of anti-lynching bills, as well as the author of the reorganization measure, stole a march on the supporters of the former by obtaining the floor at the beginning of the session.

However, in the afternoon Senator Wagner (D.-N. Y.) succeeded in making a motion that the anti-lynch bill be debated.

Then the filibuster began. Bitterly, Senator Connally (D.-Tex.) warned his colleagues that an effort to pass the bill would cause "some little delay." He went into a long dissertation on the fact that the special session was called to enact the president's program.

"I fail to find anywhere in the president's message any mention of this matter," he said. "What was the session called for? I ask the leaders of the majority and the minority."

Grinning broadly, Senator McNary of Oregon, the Republican leader, answered: "We don't know, ourselves."

"I do know," said Senator Barkley and he enumerated the bills listed by the president, observing, however, that under the circumstances, consideration of the anti-lynching bill would not violate the special order of business.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT FOR ANTI-LYNCHING LEGISLATION

Almost immediately after a Mississippi mob had seized two Negroes—during their trial at Tupelo for killing a white man—and burned them to death with gasoline blow-torches, thereby outraging justice and humanity, the House of Washington passed the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill by a large majority (277 to 119). Many Southern Democrats voted for the measure, which was almost identical with the Dyer Bill—introduced in 1918, but never duly considered.

San Antonio Express

Had any Southerner supported the Missouri Representative's proposal at that time, probably he would have committed political suicide. The vote in the House last April indicated the remarkable change in sentiment toward lynch-murder which has taken place within the past few years. At last the civic conscience is waking up and demanding that the infamy be eradicated.

11-16-37

On the other hand, in this regard "State rights" sentiment appears to be dying out. Consequently, a Federal law against lynching now is inevitable. Though the Senate succeeded in sidetracking the highly controversial measure last summer, that was merely a parliamentary coup. The bill is not dead; it has preferred standing on the calendar and probably will come before the special session just convened. In any event it will be considered early next year.

His survey of senatorial sentiment has convinced Bertram Benedict, political analyst for Editorial Research Reports, that the bill will pass. That conclusion may derive strong support from the American Institute of Public Opinion poll. To the question, "Should Congress pass a law which would make lynching a Federal crime?" 72 per cent of the citizens questioned answered, "Yes."

San Antonio

Perhaps the most surprising response came from the South, where almost all the lynchings occur—and where State rights sentiment is traditionally strong: Among the Southerners questioned—and they were chosen scientifically to represent a cross-section of the entire electorate—57 per cent voted "Yes".

Let those Southern Senators who fear to support legislation against mob crimes, lest their constituents retire them at the next election, consider that showing. Even in the "deep South," it appears, only four citizens in every 10 questioned oppose Federal action against lynching. The other six—an impressive majority—would like to see G-men put immediately on the mob's trail.

Dr. George Gallup, the Institute's director, concludes that the educational work which newspapers, colleges, churches and special organizations have been doing these many years past is becoming effective. A considerable share of the credit for the change in public sentiment belongs to the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has gathered convincing data showing the futility of expecting State and local authorities to deal effectively with lynch-murder.

In that connection consider the message from Representative Hatton W. Sumners (Texas), warning Governor White of Mississippi that should his State fail to punish the savage Duck Hill murderers, Southern Congressmen would be handicapped in their efforts to keep lynching out of Federal jurisdiction. Still, there is no record of any serious official effort to arrest the persons responsible for that atrocity.

Recognizing the futility of expecting State action, San Antonio Express supported the Dyer Bill when it was introduced. Then Texas was frequently a leader in the annual records compiled by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. For example, in 1922 this State reported 18 lynchings.

If conditions have improved, education plus official alertness, courage and competency deserve the credit. The Federal law now proposed would strengthen those and related forces making for common justice and civic decency.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5733

DIXIE PAPERS ASK ANTI-LYNCHING BILL, CITING TENN. MOB MURDER

NEW YORK—The lynching on August 17 of Albert Goodson in Covington, Tenn., has been advanced by large and small Southern dailies as irrefutable argument for passage of Federal antilynching legislation early in the next session of congress.

Some of the editorials collected by the NAACP follow:

Albany (Ga.) Herald

The anti-lynching bill has been side-tracked for the present session of Congress, but its supporters have won for it preferred legislative status when the Senate reconvenes. Its enactment by the present Congress is considered highly probable.

New Orleans (La.) Tribune

Tennessee's latest lynching may score a point for the sponsors of Federal antilynch bills.

The question arises: Would such lynchings be likely to occur if they called out Federal police and subjected communities and States to special penalties? Perhaps they would be less likely to occur.

Federal law would work no regenerative miracles among such men as made up the Memphis lynch crew. It might, however, put a little whole-some fear in them.

HARRISON PREDICTS LYNCH LAW APPROVAL

Senator Says Bill Sure To Pass Next Session

QUESTIONS ITS LEGALITY

Mississippian Declares Measure Is Unconstitutional—Cites Heavy Burdens To Be Imposed On Taxpayers

By The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss., Sept. 16.—Prompt passage of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill at the next session of Congress, "despite its unconstitutionality," was conceded here today by Senator Harrison.

"There is no way to stop it," he said.

"While it is clearly unconstitutional and a complete usurpation of the police power of the states, it is being pressed by every negro organization outside of the South.

Praises Borah

"It is a popular measure and next year being a congressional election year, candidates on Republican and Democratic tickets outside the South will proclaim their votes for it in order to win negro votes.

"Praise is due Senator Borah of Idaho for the courageous independent and statesmanlike character of opposition he has displayed to the legislation.

"The law, if enacted, will impose heavy burdens upon innocent taxpayers in every county where heinous offenses have been committed and death imposed upon culprits without legal methods. In such cases the bondsmen of the sheriff must pay $10,000 and the taxpayers of the county $10,000 to the widow of the culprit who committed the foulest offense.

"Federal judges may be transferred from other districts in other sections to try the cases. Changes of venue may be invoked for the trials.

Will Continue Opperation

"Every good citizen desires the observance of law. Unlawful hanging or killing cannot be rightfully defended, but the purposes of the anti-lynching bill desecrate the constitutional rights of American citizens. It is wholly at variance with the high conception of the constitution.

"If the Federal Government can assume the police powers of the State in the instance of a lynching, then it can do so in the case of burglary, robbery and every other character of crime.

"I shall oppose, as I have in the past, this anti-lynching proposal, but I am not fooled and when the vote is taken in the Senate, only a few senators outside the solid South will vote against it."

Negro Veteran Hopes Legion Will Support Anti-Lynching Bill

Legionnaire on Welcoming Committee Looks Forward to Action on Scottsboro Boys and Adoption of Program of Peace

The hope that the 1937 convention of the American Legion would go on record against lynching and for the freedom of the four Scottsboro boys was expressed today by Aubrey Brooks, Negro member of the Mitchell Royal Post, 1095, the Bronx. "The example of the Bronx County Legion convention which demanded the passage of the Wagner anti-Lynching bill was a notable one," the Negro veteran, who served in the 350th Field Artillery overseas, said.

"I think too often the outstanding record of the Negro soldiers during the World War is forgotten," Brooks continued. "And that the vets within the Legion should make a continuous fight for the recognition of Negro rights."

FOR PEACE

He added that there was no discrimination in his own Post, but was doubtful about Legion Posts in the South.

"There are Negro delegates to this convention," Brooks said, "but the fact remains that there is not an equal representation, considering the number of Negroes that served in the War."

The Negro ex-serviceman is 100 per cent for peace, he pointed out. "We, too, saw what war was and want the convention to go on record for a program that will keep us out of another conflict. You'll find the Negro vets in the forefront fighting for peace."

Brooks condemned red-baiting and vigilanteism within the Legion and said the progressive stand taken by Harry Colmery, national commander, in the last year, was a forward step.

POLITICAL RIGHTS

"I feel," said the Negro vet, "that every person has a right to his political beliefs and that hoodlums with clubs give a bad name to any organization. I believe the Legion has found that out."

Brooks said he hoped the convention would take action on the Nazi camps being formed in America. "These organizations are a menace to democracy and the Legion certainly should go on record in opposition to them."

Brooks is serving on the welcoming committee at the Legion's trailer camp, 138th St., and Mott Ave. Hundreds of vets, who cannot afford to stay at the Pennsylvania and Astor Hotels, are coming in their autos and bunking in trailers at the lot.

Although only the first contingents had arrived yesterday, it was expected that the parking place would be jammed Saturday and Sunday.

That the first delegates were travelling a long way for the national conclave was indicated by license plates from California, Wisconsin and Ohio.

Jackson, Miss., News
September 19, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Senator Pat Harrison says that an anti-lynching law will be enacted at the January session of Congress in spite of the sturdy opposition of Southern members of the body.

"Northern members, even Democrats, will vote for it because they want to win negro votes," says Senator Harrison. Congressional elections will be held next year.

All right.

Let it come.

When it does come we are going to have an epidemic of lynching throughout the nation. They will be as frequent in the North as in the South.

Rape means rope here in the Deep South—always has and ever will. They are getting the same idea up North where beasts in human form roam at large and ravish innocent little children.

There is mighty little respect in the public mind today for our state courts or law enforcing authorities.

Federal courts still command some measure of respect.

That will vanish with the passage of an anti-lynching law.

Lynchings are nasty, ghastly and unpleasant, but there will be just lots and lots of them after Congress places an anti-lynching law on the statute books.

Columbus, Miss., Commercial Disp.
October 28, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Under the heading, "Not Worth the Price," the Lynchburg, Va. News, published by Senator Carter Glass and Sons, prints this intelligent discussion of the proposed anti-lynching bill:

When the congress adjourned in August there remained on the program several measures advocated by the president, including one which, while not on the "must" list, had received his approval. This was the so-called anti-lynching bill and it held preferred place onthe calendar. It will be one of the first measures to be considered when the special session is convened and the general impression seems to be that it will be passed by both houses and, of course, signed by the president.

There are several reasons for belief that passage is virtually certain, several things that make its passage virtually certain. They are:

1—There are votes in it. The Negro has been migrating into the northern and middle western sections of the country for some time. He is a power in the politics of those sections. His vote is angled for by all candidates for office. In some sections united opposition of the Negro vote is decisive; no candidate can be elected under that circumstance. It has been true for some time but there has been a difference. Until recently the Negro vote was solidly republican and where it was large democratic candidates had little chance. Knowing that the Negro vote was unattainable, or unexpected, democratic members of the congress have been willing for the most part to go along with the southern members in opposition to "anti-lynching" legislation. However demagogic they might be they couldnt hope to profit much in that direction. They left sponsorship of "anti-lynching" legislation to the republicans. That was their game. Now it is different. The Negro vote is divided; the Negro is growing more independent. Democrats as well as republicans angle for his support, and a fine bait in sections in which there is an important Negro vote is to shout and vote for "anti-lynching" legislation. So they are shouting and they are going to vote for it—and there are more northern and western democrats than there are southern democrats.

2—Liberalism has become a fetich. To be considered liberal is de riguer. And, for some strange reason, advocacy of increased federal government powers has come to be a hall mark of this spurious liberalism. Furthermore, humanitarianism and liberalism have become confused and because humanity revolts at lynching anything that is labeled a measure to prevent lynching wins approval. This brings to the measure both the wishful thinkers and the demagogues who hope to profit politically by pretense of liberalism and of humanitarianism.

3—President Roosevelt supports it. Members of the congress from the south who have never favored anti-lynchiing legislation because of lack of interest in the welfare of the Negro will now vote for such legislation because it has received the approval of the president. The rubber stamp element of the congress will be for it.

4—Local self-government, from being a fetich, has become anathema to those who like to think of themselves as modern. The doctrine of state's rights is old-fashioned, therefore is to be jeered at. The fundamental principle, that of keeping government close at home, is lose sight of. Anything to obtain desired ends! Anything to be up-to-date!

That the passage of "anti-lynching" legislation will have any appreciable effect upon the mob has never been demonstrated. Even those who are so horrified at assaults upon civilization and the inherent rights of individuals to fair trial that they forget the price that must be paid for vesting police powers in a central government and for giving that central government powers of coercion have never been able to argue convincingly that after paying the price the supposed benefits will be reaped. They can only hope. The states have not prevented lynching they point out, and so they are willing to try something else.

The News would be frank about this matter It doesn't believe that any "anti-lynching legislation is likely to be effective. It is confident that any promising any effectiveness would be unconstitutional and that a constitutional amendment is necessary if there is to be legislation with any real hope of accomplishment. But, even were there great hope of accomplishment and even if such legislation were held constitutional, The News would be opposed to it. It is opposed to it because it does not believe that the promised good, even if possible of attainment by the proposed means, would be worth the price. To be brutally frank, it does not believe the saving of a few lives and the imposition of the outward form of civilization upon groups of uncivilized men is sufficient inducement for action that will bring the end of local and state government so near to annihilation that annihilation itself will be only a matter of years. If murder by a mob can bring federal authorities and federal police swarming into a state, willy-nilly, why not murder by an individual? Why not supersede local police and local courts with federal police and federal courts whenever there are votes in it? If neglect by the states of duties is to bring action by the central government, whether the privileges of people in other states are or are not affected, what is to be the end when there are votes in it? And whence does the federal government derive the power to deprive a state of its rights because it has neglected to perform its duties? To admit that there is a power to correct and to save the states from themselves is to deny to the states any rights the central government may wish to deny them. It is to re-write the constitution so as to eliminate the provision reserving to the states the rights not granted the central government and make that provision read: "The powers not delegated to the states by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the United States, are reserved to the United States."

And that would mean the end of the federal government and the substitution of a central government without constitutional restrictions worthy the name upon its powers. There are those who desire such a government, but those who do not thirst after a spurious liberalism, who believe the essence of true liberalism is opposition to coercive government, must look upon all legislation threatening its establishment with apprehension, no matter what rosy promises of immediate good are held out.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

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Brunswick, Ga., News
September 20, 1937

LYNCHING A FEDERAL OFFENSE

For the first time in years, the enactment of an anti-lynching bill appears to be a foregone conclusion. From time immemorial, the Republicans in congress have attempted to pass such legislation, but the southern Democrats from the west have managed to defeat all these bills. However, the matter has grown to a serious stage and at the last session of congress such a bill, sponsored by Democrats came near passing. On account of important legislation, it was agreed to carry the bill over until the next session with the understanding that it would be placed on the calendar for the first order of business when congress convenes in January.

The southern congressmen and senators, almost unanimously opposed the legislation and succeeded in staving it off, but with the convening of the new congress, it appears that its defeat is not likely. The reason for the change of sentiment towards the bill is allegedly on account of the negro vote in the east and west, these people having lined up with the Democrats in the past two presidential elections.

If the bill becomes a law, it will apply, of course, to all states providing severe penalties for mob violence and lynching making lynching a federal offense which would throw all such cases into the federal courts for trial. However, we do not believe that any more convictions could be secured in the federal courts than are now found in the state courts. After all the same personal citizenship would be serving on the federal juries as now serve on the state juries.

Lynching in the south is no longer a common occurrence, but the number has decreased to a minimum. It is a serious question whether the enactment of an anti-lynching law would improve conditions. We are of the opinion that a drastic anti-lynching law would cause a resentment on the part of the people. Of course the aim and object behind the measure is brought on on account of politics and the hope of playing in favor for the negro vote in the national elections.

Anniston, Ala. Star
September 19, 1937

Roosevelt's Two Speeches

In view of legislation now pending in the Congress of the United States, such as the anti-lynching bill, the wages and hours bill and the effort to bring about more equitable interstate freight rates, the people of this section of the country will be particularly interested in the two addresses the President delivered Thursday and Friday of last week, the one having to do with the 75th anniversary of the battle of Antietam and the other the 150th anniversary of the signing of the federal Constitution.

At Antietam, the President very properly deplored the loss in lives and in our economic resources that was caused by the War Between the States and the spiritual losses incident to reconstruction, which gave rise to a growth of sectionalism that retarded the advance of the nation as a unified whole. He declares that during the last four years we have been "not only acting but thinking in national terms," and we should like to believe that this is not mere wishful thinking on the part of the speaker.

That part of the President's Antietam address that particularly appealed to us, however, was this: "Deeply we appreciate," he said, "that the distress or difficulty of any one part of the Union adversely affects each and every other part. We stand ready in all parts to lend a helping hand to those Americans who need it most." We should like to believe, also, that this statement is true. We do believe it is a true representation of the mind of the President, but it is not the attitude of some of his advisers nor of the people as a whole in that section whence he comes.

If that were true, the anti-lynching bill, which has no more justification than would a law to punish Northern counties where gang murders occur, which will give rise to a recrudescence of sectionalism and racial hatred, would be dropped at once. Pat Harrison of Mississippi says this bill is certain to pass, however, and in that event it is to be hoped that it will be promptly vetoed by Mr Roosevelt. Otherwise our only recourse will rest with the Supreme Court and in that event we should be thankful that we will have Justice Hugo Black of Alabama there to represent our interests.

Again, if it were true that every part of this nation stood ready to help those Americans who need it most, neither would we be discriminated against in the matter of freight rates; for there is no question as to the fact that the South needs the help of the federal government more than any other region and our economic development is being throttled by the false freight rate differential that we have to overcome. Moreover, without better advantages economically we shall continue to be denied equality of educational opportunity and a consequent loss in cultural advancement—consummations devoutly to be wished not only in behalf of this section but of the country as a whole.

In his other address Friday evening, Mr. Roosevelt renewed his plea for a "rejuvenation" of the Supreme Court and coupled with that plea an argument for a resuscitation of the wages and hours bill, which was chloroformed in the rules committee of the House. And if that bill is brought back to life, the President, in a light of his commitment at Sharpsburg, will have to insist that there be written into the bill an unequivocal pledge looking toward the preservation of the wage differentials to which we here in the South are entitled by reason of a God-given climate and other natural advantages.

Another great objection to this bill is that it tends toward a further centralization of authority at Washington, where the section of the country that needs help the most already is inadequately represented on the various boards and bureaus that have been growing in number and in power for many years. Consequently this is an invitation to that dictatorship about which the President spoke in his radio address Friday evening.

Of course, every disinterested person in the country profoundly sympathizes with the professed objectives underlying this measure. No decent person would attempt to justify the sweat shop wages that have come back into the national economy since the NRA was outlawed and every sound economist believes in a wider distribution of the national wealth. But just as the evils of the NRA outweighed its virtues, even so is this true of the wages and hours bill as it originally was drawn. It has been amended in the House and probably will be modified more before it is allowed to become a law. Otherwise, there is little doubt that it will be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

The Anniston Star is as eager as is Mr. Roosevelt for a liberal interpretation of the Constitution of the United States. We believe that he is well advised when he says that "we have had an unending struggle between those who would preserve this original broad concept of the Constitution as a layman's instrument of government and those who would shrivel the Constitution into a lawyer's contract." Accordingly this paper supported the President in his fight with the court until the court had receded from its legislative attitude and had become more responsive to the will of the people.

Nevertheless, The Anniston Star sincerely hopes that the President will not press his fight for a further "rejuvenation" of the court at this time. To do so would be to jeopardize his leadership and that could mean nothing less than a return of the Republican party to power, in which event the South once more would become the step-child of the nation.

CONCURS WITH PAT

Mississippian Believes Anti-Lynching Bill Is Bad

To The Commercial Appeal:

I noticed in the press where Senator Harrison states that the anti-lynching bill will be a bad thing for the country, and that he will fight it. I surely concur with the senator.

One good way to stop lynchings in the South is this: If the negro race will discontinue pouring money into the coffers of Sam Liebowitz to come down here and get brutes turned loose and then carried to New York ready for vaudeville, it will have more effect than all the laws passed until doomsday.

I was proud to note that the "four poor black boys" of Scottsboro who were taken to New York for vaude e by Mr. Liebowitz were given a very cold reception even in Harlem. I imagine they are out digging ditches by now.

PURD W. SPARKS.

Tupelo, Miss.

North Emporia, Va. Messenger
September 10, 1937

CHANGE SOUGHT IN "LYNCH" LAW

1937

VIRGINIA FEDERATION OF LABOR ATTACKS USE OF BYRD LAW IN HANDLING COVINGTON RAYON DIFFICULTY.

A drive to obtain a change in the Byrd "anti-lynching" law to prevent its use in labor disputes has been indicated by the Virginia Federation of Labor in a situation which also criticized the C. I. O. for its method of handling the Covington rayon mill strike. The conviction of three C. I. O. unionists under the Byrd law—they were given penitentiary sentences—grew out of a disturbance on July 7th when the strike-bound plant was reopened. A fourth striker was given a 9-month sentence on a simple assault charge.

Joseph Rossano, president of the Virginia Federation, and W. D. Anderson, its legislative chairman, issued a statement which said the organization should seek to have the Byrd law amended by the General Assembly at its next session. They attacked the use of the Byrd law in the Covington labor trouble.

DRIVE UNDER WAY
FOR ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

New York, Oct. 15.- Warning that supporters of the federal anti-lynching bill must not be lulled into inactivity by the predictions that the bill is sure to pass, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People launched today a new drive for passage of the bill in the Senate during the special session of Congress which has been called for November 15 by President Roosevelt.

10-15-37
New York 9:27

On all sides, even in the deep South, the word has gone out that there is little chance to stop the passage of the anti-lynching bill. The N.A.A.C.P. urges colored people and their friends not to be caught napping by this propaganda. Senators who happen to be in their home districts should be visited by committees of citizens and personally urged to support the anti-lynching bill and to resist a filibuster if one develops. The N.A.A.C.P. pointed today to the newspaper reports from Washington all of which state that the anti-lynching bill is a "complication" in the special session.

"The anti-lynching bill is definitely on the calendar as the number two item of business", the N.A.A.C.P. statement said, "and it will come up for consideration immediately after the farm bill. However, it must be remembered that there is always a possibility that a filibuster will be conducted against the bill and senators favoring this legislation must be prepared to resist a filibuster until victory is won. Filibusters are not as effective in the early part of the session as they are at the end, when everyone is trying to get his favorite legislation through and go home, therefore a filibuster is more easily beaten in an early session than in the closing days.

"We must expect that all kinds of last minute propaganda will be used in an effort to postpone action on the bill, but we must accept no excuses. We have the votes to win and if we maintain steady pressure the bill will be passed."

The association also stressed the ever-present need of funds to carry on the work. The vacation period always brings a drop in income which is not resotred until December. With a special session scheduled for November, money is urgently needed to press the fight before Christmas.

Lynchings—1937
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ANTI-LYNCH BILL COMES UP AGAIN

Wagner's Surprise Move in Senate Threatens to Upset Legislative Program

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11 (AP) — A motion to debate the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill caught administration leaders in the senate napping today, upset their legislative program, and threatened to delay adjournmnt of congress.

When they awoke to the situation, the leaders sought to sidetrack the motion by adjourning—but their parliamentary move lost, 35 to 27.

With the revolt then clearly out of hand, Republican Leader McNary moved to recess and his motion carried, 36 to 23. This means the bill will be before the senate again tomorrow, whereas an adjournment would have side-tracked it.

The net result was that the senate faced a bitter and perhaps lengthy fight over the measure, which the house already has passed.

The bill would hold counties responsible for abductions within their area for the purpose of lynching. Officers who failed to protect their prisoners, or to prosecute lynch mobs, would be guilty of felony.

Lynching would be so defined as to exclude labor violence, or gangster violence.

Barkley Protests in Vain

Senator Wagner (D-N. Y.) made the motion to take up the bill and vowed that he would not withdraw it.

Democratic Leader Barkley of Kentucky, protested that he had arranged a tentative program whereby Senator King (D-Utah) was to be recognized to take up a District of Columbia bill and other measures were to follow that.

But Vice President Garner interrupted to state that since Wagner was the only man who had arisen and asked for recognition from the chair, he had to be recognized.

Wagner said he did not want to disarrange the program, but "I do not believe a bill of this importance ought to be set aside."

Barkley said he had no objection to consideration of the bill, but felt it should be taken up when it would not delay emergency measures. He suggested that Wagner had been "unfair" in making his motion.

Borah Attacks Bill

Senator Clark (D-Mo.) quickly challenged Barkley. He said a number of "shocking lynchings" made the bill extremely important emergency legislation."

Senator Borah (R-Ida.) then launched into a discussion of the constitutional phases of the legislation, asserting it would jeopardize the nation's dual system of government. He condemned some of the provisions as "perfectly outrageous."

"If you can go into a state and take charge of an individual or group of individuals who have committed a crime, and bring them under the federal government jurisdiction," he said, "then the last vestige of local government will have disappeared."

Senator Minton (D-Ind.) cited the supreme court's Scottsboro, Ala., case decision that the state by excluding Negro jurors had violated the due process clause of the constitution and therefore the Negro rape defendants should have a new trial.

Borah quickly asserted the decision had "no relation whatever to federal legislation," and was supported by Senator George (D-Ga.).

ANOTHER DIXIE BARBARITY

Richmond (Va.) Times Dispatch,

The Federal anti-lynching bill has assumed considerable danger of being crowded out in the furor over the court bill, but now another ghastly lynching has taken place in the South. If anything could pump life into the drive to secure the bill's enactment at the current session, despite the apparent obstacles growing out of the parliamentary situation, the mob murder of two Negroes yesterday in Florida should turn the trick.

It will be recalled that in the spring, the drive for the bill was bogging down, and the Southern senators and congressmen were advancing their customary contention that the Southern States should be allowed to "manage their own affairs," when the sickening blow-torch lynching of two Negroes at Dick Hill, Miss., roused the country to a complete realization that in such States as Mississippi, "managing their own affairs" means letting lynchers go unpunished. So the House promptly passed the Gavagan bill by the overwhelming vote of 277 to 119.

Then the Senate began consideration of the similar, although not identical, Wagner-Van Nuys, bill. That measure was reported out by the Senate Judiciary Committee late last month by a 12-to-3 vote, and its advocate were hopeful that it could be scheduled for debate on the floor in the not distant future. But Senator Robinson's death and the violent controversy over the court bill has invalidated all calculations. It appears probable that Congress will either be immersed in the court battle for months, to the virtual exclusion of everything else, or the court bill will be quickly chloroformed this week, and adjournment will follow soon thereafter.

Thus it is quite possible that the Federal anti-lynching bill cannot be passed by the Senate until next session. On the other hand, almost anything can happen in view of what has happened in recent weeks.

LYNCH BILL IS SET FOR ACTION IN 1938

Wagner Agrees to Delay as Filibuster Threat Imperils Administration Program

GETS PREFERRED STATUS

Measure to Follow Crop Control in Next Session—Southerners in Bitter Attack

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—A situation which threatened to prolong this session of Congress indefinitely and at the same time imperiled the enactment of the Administration program now pending before Congress was reached up late this afternoon when the Senate voted to postpone consideration of the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching bill until the next session of Congress.

A motion by Senator Wagner to take up the legislation was before the Senate and an indication of the filibuster that would follow in the event the motion prevailed was evidenced on all sides. It appeared certain that a vote on the Wagner motion could not be reached until some time next week, and after that would have come the debate on the bill itself. Some Senators were of the opinion that the debate would have lasted at least a month.

When the Senate convened at noon today Senator Connally of Texas took the floor to discuss the Wagner motion to bring the bill before the Senate and three hours elapsed before he yielded the floor to Senator Pepper of Florida, another opponent of the legislation. A dozen Senators, most of them from the South, were ready to speak when opportunity offered.

Becomes Unfinished Business

The Administration leadership realized the seriousness of the situation and Senator Barkley, the leader, called Senators Wagner and Van Nuys into conference and placed before them the proposal to postpone action until next year. Messrs. Wagner and Van Nuys agreed to accept the proposal.

Under the agreement the anti-lynching bill wil become the unfinished business of the Senate immediately after passage of a crop control bill, which under a resolution recently passed, must be the first business of the Congress when the second session convenes in January.

When the Senate convened today Senator Connally took the floor and Senators Borah, George of Georgia, Byrnes of South Carolina, Glass of Virginia and other opponents of the measure were in their seats al of them ready to speak if necessary. It was apparent that unless something in the form of a compromise was reached Congress might remain in session many weeks, and the rift in the Democratic lines would be widened.

Senator Connally charged Senator Wagner with a willingness 'to embarrass the President and the Senate leadership" by insisting that his "pet" measure be considered at this session. It was worth noting, the Texas Senator added, that gangsters were not includede in the proposed law but were "left free" to go their ways without fear of Federal interference 'or molestation. Senator Connally said that the bill was so drawn as not to apply to Senator Wagner's constituents on Second Avenue and in Harlem. He intimated that it was political in nature and aimed at the Southern States.

Gangster Exemption Stressed

Senator Wagner insisted that the bill applied equally to all the States and that it was an effort "to provide that the humblest person whether he be charged with or suspected of a crime, whoever he may be, may go through the legal processes of being presumed to be innocent until proved guilty, and that instead of being lynched he may have a fair trial where his guilt or innocence may be determined."

"Why did the Senator exempt gangsters then, if he wanted the measure to be of universal application?" Senator Connally asked.

"Gangsters," replied Senator Wagner, "are not in this bill because we are dealing here with lynching. There is ample law on the statute books, passed by us within the past three years, to apprehend and to prosecute gangsters and racketeers."

Senator Glass Interrupted

"I asked the Senator from New York two years ago," he said, "when I presented the Virginia statute severely treating all lynching cases, if there was a single sentence in the statutes of New York against lynching, and the Senator could not produce one. And there are more crimes committed in New York in one day than there are in Virginia in years."

Senator Wagner said that there was a statute against lynching in New York, a statute against murder.

Borah Calls Bill Illegal

Senator Borah declared that the anti-lynching bill was unconstitutional, a clear invasion of the rights of States, the giving to the Feneral Government the right of intervention to enforce the criminal laws of a State, the right to intervene even when the violation was intrastate and not interstate in character.

Senator McKellar of Tennessee interjected himself into the picture at this juncture.

"If the Senator will permit me," said Senator McKellar, "I will call his attention to something which recently occurred. I read in a newspaper a few days ago that a little girl, 3 or 4 years of age, was brutally, criminally assaulted in the City of New York, and then killed, and it was afterward alleged that the man who had committed this crime had destroyed more little girls during the last year than there were persons lynched in 1936. In that year only eight lynchings occurred in the United States. Yet here was one man, who had not yet been punished, so far as I know, and no efforts had been made to punish him—I think he is going to be sent to an asylum—think of it, for destroying 3 or 5-year-old little girls! Yet we find the Senator from New York here trying to pull motes out of the eyes of people of other States and letting his own go to wrack and ruin."

"I would like to know," said Senator Borah, "and I would like some one to explain that which has not yet been explained—why it was thought necessary specifically to exempt gangsters.

"We know that gangsterism for the last quarter of a century has been a serious national evil. Now it is the most astounding thing that I know of in legislation that in framing a measure against violence you are carefully exempting gangsterism from the operation of the law."

Senator Pepper said the bill was useless legislation, for the reason, he said, it could not be enforced. Senator Pepper, after a few words, yielded the floor to Senator Barkley, who announced that an agreement had been reached to postpone action until next year. Senator Wagner then withdrew his motion for immediate consideration of the bill, and the agreement was approved without a roll-call.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
August 5, 1937

SACRIFICE OF THE SOUTH

HOW little "ice" Southern Democrats cut when Democrats of the North feel that they can improve their position by turning against the South, is demonstrated in the attitude on the anti-lynch bill as well as in the wage-hour proposal.

There is Senator Copeland, for instance, who, as a side line, is running for Mayor of New York. He has become a rabid supporter of the anti-lynch bill because he feels that it will appeal to the 250,000 negroes who reside in Harlem and who have a large voice in the election of public officials. That the bill constitutes a flagrant violation of state rights and is a distinct blow to the Democratic South, concerns him no whit.

And what is true of Copeland in New York is true of some other Democrats in states like Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, where the negro vote is a big factor in elections.

The prevailing idea seems to be that the South is Democratic anyway; that its vote can be countered upon no matter what happens, and so plenty of things are happening these days.

Washington D.C.
United States News
Aug-9, 1937

Plea of Negro Press For Anti-Lynch Vote

ANTI-LYNCHING legislation, enacted by the House in April, faces an uncertain future in the Senate. An attempt to finesse its passage as a rider to another bill failed when it was held not to be germane. It may yet be voted on separately before adjournment.

The Senate bill as amended in Committee provides in general that the Federal Attorney General may prosecute a peace officer who culpably fails to save a prisoner from a mob; may recover for the estate of a lynched victim $2,000 to $10,000 damages from the city or county where the lynching occurred; that "lynching" be not deemed to include violence in labor disputes.

NEGRO newspapers, supporting the anti-lynching bill before Congress, ask of leaders of their race a spirit of cooperation, and a spirit of confidence that Congress will allow a record vote on the measure.

Most urgent is the plea of the New York *Amsterdam News*, which feels that, after action in the Scottsboro case, there is need for "a fight unto death for justice."

The Pittsburgh Courier, noting that a plan has been formed to send 100,000 telegrams and letters to Congress members in favor of the measure, estimates "at least 65 sure votes in the Senate," and that "leading southern Senators, opposed to the bill, have promised to confine their actions to speeches and votes against the bill, not to filibuster."

The Pittsburgh paper emphasizes the constitutional question and argues: "It is manifestly unconstitutional for Negroes to be 'spirited' from jails and lynched without investigation or trial when officers whom they support with their taxes are supposed to protect them. And yet, although these American practices are clearly unconstitutional, how many of these professed lovers of the Constitution intend to do anything about it?"

Cartoonist Warren in the Buffalo Evening News
Unbridled Regulation

An appeal to American justice is made by the Kansas City *Call* with the argument:

"There is history to support our contention that the United States has need to give thought to the condition of its black citizens. Obviously it should cultivate the good there is in them for the good they can do."

The *Call* also declares:

"Justice and equality, liberty and opportunity have made this country the leader among nations. They can keep it secure. They and they alone are its insurance against class warfare and the downfall of the chief exponent of the government by the people and for the people."

The contention that "the cause of the Negro is too great to be sacrificed on the altar of personal likes and dislikes, or personal jealousies", is made by the St. Louis *Argus*, which contends:

"As we review the path over which the anti-lynching bill came to its final passage in the House of Representatives, we venture to make the statement that the bill would be in much better shape to pass the Senate than it is today if the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Congressman Mitchell had been working together, and we don't think it takes a 'Solomon' to see the wisdom of this. If there are those who do not see the wisdom of this, let them wait; time will tell.

"We do not agree with those who insinuate that Arthur W. Mitchell, as a Congressman, has not the interest and well-being of his race at heart; but we rather think that those who make this charge have some ulterior motives."

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
November 18, 1937

ATTACK FROM NORTH

The Northern attack on the South is now waged on three fronts. Two of them have to do with the South's economic well being and the other, let us say is just pure cussedness, in the absence of a better reason. New England industrialists are resisting the effort of the South to obtain an equality in freight rates while Northern dairy interests are putting up opposition to the expansion of the industry down here by demanding that farm legislation prohibit the acres taken out of cotton from being used for the production of cattle or dairy feeds. These constitute the onslaught of the economic fronts, while the anti-lynching bill which has sprung up again in congress seek to penalize Southern governmental subdivisions where lynchings occur by making them liable for damages to the families of the lynchers' victims. No decent, law-abiding white man or official condones lynching under any circumstances, and those who attempt to uphold the law and pay the taxes should not be made to pay for the acts of hoodlums, however much they may be deplored. And should the anti-lynching bill pass, it would do more to cause bloody work. As we see it, no good can come from the anti-lynching bill, and therefore it must be pressed for pure cussedness.

Lynchings.-1937
Legislation Relating to.

5736

Gadsden, Ala., Times
June 15, 1937

SECTIONAL BILL APPROVED

THE Senate Judiciary committee has approved the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill but it is explained for the benefit of gangsters and killers in other portions of the country that its provisions will not reach them.

Senator Van Nuys, following the committee's approval of the measure, took pains to let it be known that the bill does not apply to "mobl violence by gangsters or deaths due to labor differences," thus frankly exposing its sectional nature and the narrowness of its application.

This highly restrictive element in the proposed law proves the truth of the charge that it is a proposal cooked up exclusively as a vote-getting contrivance among negroes in doubtful states. Had the motive been broader there could have been no objection whatever to making applicable to mobsters everywhere rather than merely in the South.

But the sectional nature of the bill and the sinister political element behind it, constitute only two objections. A most serious objection lies in the broad invasion of state rights that is sought to be authorized.

Outbreaks of mob violence are state offenses, as this bill recognizes in other portions of the country, yet it is proposed to have the federal government intervent in such matters in the South in spite of the fact that it is a violation of a constitutional, as clearly as the case, but the hope is entertained that this may possibly be overcome by packing the Supreme Court—a result which, however, is becoming exceedingly nebulous. If the court isn't packed this anti-lynch law will undoubtedly be thrown out, granting that it survives the vigorous fight Southern representatives will make upon it.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
June 16, 1937

Years of Silence

Had President Franklin D. Roosevelt uttered the word "No" three years ago when the Wagner "anti-lynching" bill was pressed in the senate, all this uncertainty of the attitude of the national Democratic party toward the "negro question" in the South would have been avoided. If there be danger of a split in his party by reason of this question he created the danger by the three years of silence which he does not break.

Columbia, S. C., Leader
June 12, 1937

PUNISHING LYNCHING BY THE STATE

A few weeks ago when the Gavigan anti-lynching bill was up in the House for consideration, the Southern Congressman who believe in lynching but haven't the courage to say so, pleaded that the bill should not be passed as the lynching states could and would themselves stop lynching. Of course, they know that they couldn't or wouldn't. They know that the only way that lynching can be stopped is by punishing the hoodlums who lynch including the cowardly officers who take part or connive with the rats who do and that is the object of the Gavigan anti-lynching bill. Well, a few months ago a Negro was lynched in Alabama. It is now pretty well established that the victim was an innocent man too. Alabama has a governor who really thinks that lynching is incompatible with the majetsty of the state and a disgrace to a Christian civilization. He thinks too that a sheriff or other officer who connives wth the mob or abjectively surrenders a prisoner to it and who, in the bargain, is so blind that he can't recognize a single person, has no right to remain in office. Following out this idea, he ordered his attorney-general to institute impeachment proceedings against the sheriff who turned his prisoner over to the mob. The action was before the State Supreme Court. Now, no one could have the least suspicion that any member of that body had any part in the lynching but lo and behold, that court acquitted the sheriff. And so, he is free to go on canniving with mobs. A jury of neghbors—some of whom mght have been a member of the mob—could not have done any better by that sheriff. And yet, the states will stamp out lynchings! No, lynching will become a thing of the past when a federal anti-lynching law is enacted. Uncle Sam's G-Men will do that.

LYNCH BILL VOTED BY SENATE GROUP

Threats of Filibuster Are Not Forthcoming.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—(AP)—The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill emerged from the senate judiciary committee today without the threats of filibuster that have greeted similar proposals in the past.

The committee voted, 13 to 3, for the bill.

Anti-lynching bills have been killed by filibusters more than once. Though some legislators forecast the same fate for the bill approved today, Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, said he did not believe there would be a filibuster.

Connally said he would oppose it.

The bill would make any local peace officer who wilfully neglected to protect a prisoner, or failed to prosecute a lynch mob, guilty of a felony. He would be subject to a fine up to $5,000 or five years in jail, or both.

Counties where lynching mobs seized a prisoner would also be liable for civil damages of from $2,000 to $10,000.

Anti-Lynch Bill Is Sent To Senate

Threat Of Filibuster Believed Subsided

WASHINGTON, June 21.—(AP)—The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill emerged from the Senate judiciary committee today without the threats of filibuster that have greeted similar proposals in the past.

The committee voted 13 to 3 for the bill.

Anti-lynching bills have been killed by filibusters more than once. Though some legislators forecast the same fate for the bill approved today, Senator Connally (D), Texas, said he did not believe there would be a filibuster.

Introduced by Senators Wagner (D), New York, and Van Nuys (D), Indiana, it is somewhat similar to the Gavagan bill, but according to its friends, simpler and more easily enforceable.

It would make any local peace officer who wilfully neglected to protect a prisoner, or failed to prosecute a lynch mob, guilty of a felony. He would be subject to a fine up to $5,000 or five years in jail, or both.

Counties where lynching mobs seized a prisoner would also be liable for civil damages of from $2,000 to $10,000.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
June 25, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill emerged from the Senate judiciary committee this week without the threats of filibuster that have greeted similar proposals in the past. The committee voted, 13 to 3, for the bill.

Indications are that there will be little fight made against the bill this time, since the Winona mob "threw the fat in the fire" just at the most opportune time. However, the passage of the bill, unfortunately, will not stop lynchings in the south if the cause of lynchings continue, but will create quite a bit of trouble that will be ineffective. Of course the bill is unconstitutional, but that is of little consequence any more. We would suggest to the people of the south, if the bill does pass, that hereafter when a case comes up that calls for a lynching bee, that we call it a "gangster raid," like they do in the north. Let no newspaper in the south ever again mention "lynching" in its columns, but instead, adopt that much of the Yankee's language; call it "gangster raid." You know that is a much more cultured word, and the gangster usually has much money.

Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
June 22, 1937

THE SOUTH'S BATTLE

The approval of the anti-lynching bill yesterday by the Senate Judiciary Committee now brings this measure before the Senate. The southern Senators will make a strenuous fight to defeat this bill.

It would work a hardship upon the South.

would necessitate a "standing army" for Mississippi in order to try to enfore this measure. Every sheriff in the state would call for militia protection and the governor would be forced to comply with the sheriffs' requests for troops.

This measure is being sponsored by northern Democrats who are making a strong bid for the northern negro vote. It is a sectional appeal that does injustice to the Democrat Party.

The South has never favored lynching. Yet the South has its problems which can best be solved by state legislation.

We believe that this measure is an invasion of state's rights. Just another example of some Democrats striving to hurt rather than help the southern negro problem.

At one time the South did enjoy a "veto" in national Democratic conventions. But that was changed when Jim Farley put over his majority ruling in national convention voting.

The battle is on but the southern Senators will not stand by idly.

The Mason and Dixon Line again becomes a visible line of demarcation.

It is a sectional fight and the South must again stand up and fight for a principle.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 1, 1937

For An Anti-Lynching Law.

"By a 13 to 3 vote the Senate Judiciary Committee has approved the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill and returned it to the Senate with the recommendation that it be passed. So it is again time for the friends of justice to rally to the support of a measure designed to end for all time the barbarism which has stigmatized the South for generations." So says the Danville (Virginia) Register.

"The Senate Judiciary Committee has approved by a vote of 13 to 3 the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill. . . . The bill, of course, is another interference with the affairs of the States. But those States which have tolerated lynchings are to blame. They have had ample opportunity to clean house and have refused to do it. Now the Federal Government is moving to take a hand." So says the Newport News (Virginia) Daily Press.

A few years ago few if any Southern newspapers favored a Federal anti-lynching law. Southern newspapers opposed such legislation on the ground that it would infringe the rights of the States. But the newspapers were honest and sincere in their position, they deplored mob lawlessness as strongly as any of their Northern colleagues, and while opposing Federal legislation on the subject they called upon the States to set their faces sternly against the mob and stamp out the evil of lynching.

Today many if not most of the Southern newspapers advocate a Federal anti-lynching law because they have despaired of the suppression of mob lawlessness by the States. There are not as many mob murders now as there used to be, but several such outrages are committed every year, and the lynchers continue to go unwhipt of justice. The States not only do not punish the mobs; they do not pass laws designed to discourage mobs. Virginia is about the only State in the South that has enacted a law of that kind, and during the ten or twelve years that the law has been on the statutes there has not been a lynching in Virginia.

It is significant that newspapers of a State that apparently has suppressed the mob have joined other Southern newspapers in support of the Federal anti-lynching bill which has passed the House and is now before the Senate. Lynching is almost exclusively a Southern problem. Virginia is a Southern State, and the newspapers of Virginia are interested in wiping out an evil that is a disgrace to the South.

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser
June 30, 1937

To Force It On Us?

Anti-lynching sentiments dominant in the South, in which leaders both intelligent and humane long have battled and with growing effectiveness against this form of lawlessness, but the South knows that the federal anti-lynchnig bill now before congress is likely to do more harm than good.

The South, therefore, does not want it.

Yet indications increase that the South will get it anyhow.

The senate's judiciary committee has voted 13 to 3 for the measure and President Roosevelt's Democratic administration is supporting it strongly.

The Democratic administration in this matter is giving the Democratic South something to remember it by.

The Wagner Anti-Lynching Bill

(The Washington Times)

An unusually nauseating Southern lynching occurred Monday, when a Tallahassee (Fla.) mob dressed as Ku Kluxers jerked two colored boys out of jail and shot them to death. The boys were in jail on charges of having stabbed a white policeman, and would have been tried in due time.

Senator Wagner announces that he will pass his anti-lynching bill for Senate passage beginning right after the court fight. The bill, which has already passed the House, would apply to all States, North or South, and would—

"(1) make any peace officer convicted of wilful negligence in resisting or prosecuting a lynch mob liable to a Federal Government fine up to $5,000, or five years in jail, or both; and (2) enable the Federal Government to fine any county where a lynching occurred from $2,000 to $10,000 and turn the money over to the lynch victim or his estate."

This bill, if it becomes law, won't stop lynching altogether. But it will enable the Federal Government to go after a savage custom which the Southern States cannot or will not rub out of their own volition. The Government has had great success in putting down kidnapers, counterfeiters, interstate bank robbers. We'd like to see the Government turned loose on lynchers.

However, there is widespread and well founded belief that the basic causes of lynchings down South are—economic—rather than sentimental. Southern poor whites do most of the Southern lynching; and observers tell us that they do it not so much out of the much touted reverence for Southern womanhood as out of hatred for colored people who get ahead in the world.

The South by and large is the poorest part of the United States as regards cash income, so that the struggle for existence on the lower levels of Southern society is a fierce one. When poor whites see colored people making gains in this eternal struggle, the poor whites see red.

So the long-range remedy for lynching would seem to be lift the living standards, somehow, of both the poor whites and the colored people down South. This, the New Deal has been trying to do, and has succeeded in some areas, notably the TVA area. The President wants Congress to pass more New Deal legislation before it adjourns—hour-and-wage laws, help for share croppers and handicapped farm tenants, a substitute AAA to keep farm income up to par. The latest Southern lynching is one more argument for some real New Deal action before this session of Congress ends.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
August 3, 1937

Dangers Little Dreamed Of

To be sure, as Senator Smith said last week in his speech opposing the Black-Connery bill, that measure, the anti-lynching bill, the abolition of the Democratic party's "two thirds rule", divers other schemes, are part of a general scheme whereby the great cities would control the Democratic party. The News and Courier has said heretofore that the peril to the South is no less than it was in 1861. The South is facing a greater subjugation. In 1861 it had leaders. Generally, its people were united. The present designs are more insidious than were those of Stevens and Wade in 1867—and whether the subjugation shall be effected by a "Democratic" or a "Republican" party is no matter. If the New Dealers shall see failure to control the South by the Bankheads, Byrneses, Harrisons and other "conservatives" they will vote the Southern negroes in the Farley-ickes Democratic party. That is their plan. The "anti-lynching plan" is a part of it. The South has little dream of the danger confronting it.

Lynchings- 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5737

Anti-Lynching Bill Stirs Congress; South Found in Favor of Such a Law

NEW YORK, Aug. 21.—One of the bitterest issues to reach the floor of congress this session is focused in the Wagner-Van Nuys bill to make lynching a federal crime. Southern congressmen have attacked the measure in strong terms as an infringement of the rights of the state.

The White House has shown little desire to handle an issue which is considered so full of sectional dynamite.

Yet a poll conducted last January by the Institute of Public Opinion indicated that there is virtually as much sentiment for a federal anti-lynching measure among southern voters as among other citizens. Southern voters averaged 65 per cent in favor of such a law, while the national vote was 70 per cent in favor.

Subsequent polls will show whether the debate over the Wagner-Van Nuys bill has changed sentiment.

Hammond, La., Vindicator
August 13, 1937

THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

In spite of his erratic and frequently inconsistent stand on political questions and platforms, Senator Borah of Idaho has earned a reserved reputation for boldness when it comes to the Constitution of the United States. Active as a lawyer before his election to the Senate some 30 years ago, he has lost no opportunity to broaden his familiarity with that remarkable document, and today he occupies a commanding position among authorities who profess to understand the economic, social and political factors which went to make up its groundwork.

The country recalls the exhaustive study Senator Borah made of the gold question, which resulted in the conclusion that Congress has the right to authorize a devaluation of the currency, a stand upheld by the Supreme Court. It also recalls his keen reasoning in support of the right of the states to prescribe the qualifications of voters, particularly the Southern States; and his contention that the anti-lynching bill is unconstitutional in that it undertakes to usurp the power of the states to suppress crime.

Now, Senor Borah has sent the Constitution experts to their books with the insistence that there is no legal vacancy on the Supreme Bench. He contends that Justice Van Devanter, who retired under the Summers Act, is still a member of the court and that President Roosevelt has no right to nominate a successor.

There is little probability that the Senator's contention will prevail, but it must be conceded that he has raised an interesting question.

The Supreme Court is rooted not in an act of Congress, but in the Constitution itself. Congress may create inferior courts, but the Supreme Court is the creature of the Constitution. The only way a vacancy may exist is through death, resignation or removal. Unless and until one of these contingencies occurs, a justice serves during good behavior.

Some years ago Congress provided that district judges must retire at the age of 70 and continue to draw their salaries. A few months ago this concession was extended to circuit and supreme judges. Justice Devanter was the first to take advantage of it.

The question is whether mere retirement can be interpreted as a resignation. The act does not say, as it could legally say, that a justice might resign and still receive his salary. On the contrary, it says that he may still function as a judge, subject to the call of the chief justice. If, when the Supreme Court convenes in October, Chief Justice Hughes found the docket crowded, he could recall Justice Van Devanter and assign him to active work.

President Roosevelt refuses to admit the seriousness of Senator Borah's contention. Though declining a formal statement, he points to an opinion by Attorney General Cummings which holds that the President does not have to name a successor while the Senate is in session, but may wait until adjournment and make a recess appointment. This is taken to mean that the attorney general upholds the Summers Act and concedes that a vacancy exists.

Aside from the purely legal phases of the question is that of public policy, the policy of providing for the retirement of public servants in their aging years. The government has long recognized this. Virtually every department of the public service is taken care of under retirement laws. There is no valid reason why a judge who has given his best years to official duties and approaches an age when the duties become irksome should not be able to lay down his burden and receive the same consideration that an army or naval officer or a postoffice clerk.

The mere fact that Justice Van Devanter took advantage of the act and hints that Justice Sutherland is considering a similar course, indicates that members of the Court regard it as constitutional. In fact, nobody seemed to doubt its constitutionality until Senator Borah came to the front. In any event, it furnishes an entertaining diversion for an otherwise dull and listless prolongation of a hot and wornout Congress. —Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Washington, D. C. Post
August 13, 1937

The Anti-Lynching Bill.

Senator Borah's vehement opposition to the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan anti-lynching bill was probably an important factor in the Senate's decision to lay it aside. No member of the Senate is a more conscientious champion of human rights than Mr. Borah. Nor is any better qualified to speak upon the fundamentals of American government. When the Senator from Idaho threatens to filibuster against a bill to prevent lynching it should certainly be examined with the greatest care.

No civilized person attempts to justify this barbarous American practice. The growing indignation of the country against the illegal murder of persons suspected of crime is reflected in the reduction of lynchings from over 100 per year prior to 1900 and more than 25 per year before the World War, to only 9 in 1936. Consequently, there is widespread sympathy with the efforts of legislators completely to wipe out atrocities of this sort. It is the method by which the aim would be achieved that raises controversy.

Opponents of the postponed bill are convinced that its detrimental influence on our structure of government would be more important than its beneficial effects on law enforcement. It would impose severe punishment upon local authorities failing to protect any person from lynching. In short, the Federal Government would become a policeman to enforce the law upon local policemen. Even when the Government attempted to enforce the prohibition law against local violators there was intolerable confusion. A Federal attempt to enforce a statute against local officials elected by the people might produce a still more serious tangle.

The weakest provision of the bill, however, is that which would permit the Government to bring suit against a city or county in which a lynching might occur. All the people of that county would be hu-

...alleged and punished for the dastardly crimes of a few individuals. To some extent lynching might be discouraged by this practice. On the other hand, reversion to the tactics of the "carpetbag" days might permanently retard the encouraging rise of anti-lynching sentiment in the South.

"It is a perfect outrage," says Senator Borah, "to turn the Federal Government into the public affairs of the States and cities." Under our scheme of government problems of this sort are traditionally left to the States. There are some notable disadvantages in that plan, as in all forms of self-government. But the advantages of local autonomy should also be considered before such basic changes are made.

Under these circumstances it is gratifying that the anti-lynching bill has been postponed until the next session of Congress. In a less hurried atmosphere Congress may be able to see the problem with clearer perspective. Its task will then be one of actively discouraging the lynching evil without destroying the equilibrium between Federal and local functions of government.

SOUTHERN SENATORS ...

...their anxiety to get away ... their foot slip on the anti-lynching bill. They were in position to filibuster it to death, as they have done on other occasions. But in their eagerness ... disposed ... temporarily, they gave Senator Wagner an advantage in the next session which he has never had in this or any previous session. By agreeing to make the bill second order of business there is hardly any danger from its passage. For the first time it is a matter of prior concern ... can not be displaced. A filibuster cannot be sustained from the beginning to the end of session. There are enough votes to pass it now, and in all probability it will be passed. The opposition for the first time lost an opportunity to kill the bill. It will be exceedingly alive when the Congress returns.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
August 16, 1937

Fine Prospects for Passage

PASSAGE of the Federal antilynching bill at the next session of Congress seems virtually assured. It is still possible, of course, that a filibuster by Southern senators will kill the measure, as on two former occasions, but that appears improbable.

Be it noted that the Administration has now agreed to give the WAGNER-VAN NUYS bill a preferred place on the Senate calendar when Congress reconvenes, either in its regular session in January, or in an earlier special session. In other words, a Federal antilynching bill is now assured of getting to the Senate floor, for the first time. Motions to take up such bills in the past have always been filibustered to death or defeated, but the agreement reached with Administration leaders insures consideration of the measure on its merits early in the next session.

Since an almost identical bill has passed the House already by the overwhelming vote of 277 to 119, since the Senate committee reported the Senate bill out by a 13-to-3 vote, and since the Senate as a whole is understood to be 2 to 1 in favor of the measure, its passage can hardly be a matter of serious doubt, particularly in view of the fact that a successful filibuster is far more difficult at the beginning of a session than near the end.

THE TIMES-DISPATCH is happy at the prospect of the bill's passage. It does not expect the measure to usher in the millennium, but it is convinced that a number of the Southern States have no idea of taking effective action against lynchers, and that if such action is to be taken by anybody, it will have to be the Federal Government.

At the very time when Southerners were protesting on the floor of Congress this spring that the States ought to be allowed to "manage their own affairs," two Negroes were being put to death by torture with a blowtorch in Mississippi. Then some months later, when the argument was renewed, two more Negroes were lynched in Florida. If anybody has even been arrested for either of these crimes, the news escaped us.

That sort of thing is going to keep on happening, if the Federal bill is defeated. Virginia set the other Southern States a fine example in 1928, when it wiped out lynchings by passing a strong State law, but the other States did not follow suit. The lynching curve has revealed no definite trend, either up or down, in the past 14 years, and, of course, almost all the lynchings during the period have been in the South.

It may be that the Federal law will have to be amended in certain respects, in order to bring the best results. We are not contending that it is insusceptible of improvement. We do contend that the enactment of Federal antilynching legislation is the only thing which gives any hope of wiping out lynching in this country. And as this is the only so-called civilized country where lynchings occur, and since the South is the locale for almost all the lynchings in America, we think their complete eradication is something which every Southerner should desire.

Miami, Fla. Herald
August 22, 1937

A CASE IN POINT

IF CONGRESS, in the hurly burly of its closing hours, finally passed the Wagner-Connery antilynching bill and the President approves it and the Supreme court finds it constitutional, which it probably will not, the situation hereafter in a few counties of the country may be illustrated by what transpired a few days ago in Covington, Tipton county, Tennessee.

Tipton county has not had a lynching since the Civil war, until last Monday. . . .

A negro had been accused of murdering a police officer. He was arrested and taken into Nashville for his protection pending his trial.

When the time came for the trial the sheriff of Tipton county, without taking anyone into his confidence, secretly went to Nashville to bring back the prisoner. He took every precaution to prevent news of his trip becoming public.

On his return he made his way over unfrequented roads. He was met on one of them by five men, all heavily armed, who took the prisoner from the sheriff despite his pleas to let the law take its course and despite his personal exertions to prevent the capture.

The negro was taken away by the masked men and lynched.

Now, so far as is known, only those five men in all Tipton county discovered that errand of the sheriff and prepared for the lynching, while thousands of the citizens of the county, wholly opposed to lynching, as the record shows, were ignorant of what was taking place.

Under the proposed law those thousands of innocent people, had the lynching taken place after its enactment, could be made to pay in taxes from $2,000 to $4,000 to the relatives of the lynched negro.

The innocent must suffer with the guilty under this law.

ANTI-LYNCH LAW USED ON STRIKERS

By VIRGINIUS DABNEY

RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 13.—Penitentiary sentences are being imposed, under the Virginia Anti-Lynching Law, on strikers convicted of taking part in a melee at the gate of the Industrial Rayon Corporation's mill at Covington on July 7. Union pickets tried to prevent non-union men from returning to work. Two automobiles were overturned, but no one was seriously injured.

Instead of preferring assault and battery charges against the strikers, which would have subjected them to a maximum penalty of twelve months in jail, warrants were sworn out under the Anti-Lynching Law, passed in 1928. That act provides that "any and every person composing a mob which shall commit an assault and/or battery on any person without authority of law, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be confined in the penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than ten years."

Definition of "Mob"

A mob is defined as "a collection of people assembled for the purpose and with the intention of committing assault and/or battery upon any person, without authority of the law."

Under the ruling of the court at Covington, any member of such a mob is criminally liable for every act committed by any other member.

The anti-lynching law had never been invoked before in a Virginia labor dispute. Sponsored by Harry F. Byrd when he was Governor, with a view to putting an end to the occasional lynchings which were still taking place in Virgina, the act achieved that result, for there has not been a lynching in the State since its enactment.

Three Get Long Terms

The three strikers thus far convicted, members of the C. I. O. textile union, have received terms of from two to four years from a jury brought from neighboring Highland County, which is almost wholly agricultural and has not a mile of railroad.

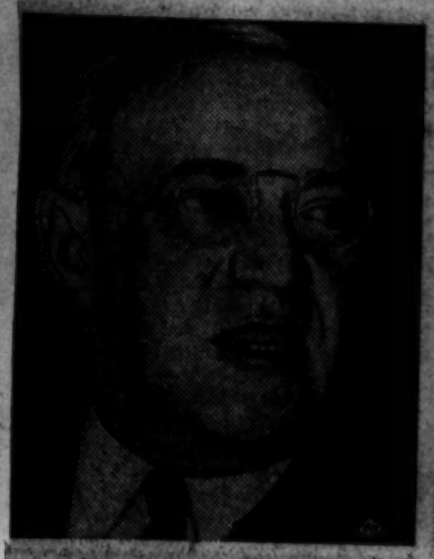
The Richmond Times-Dispatch has protested several times editorially against the severity of the sentences, and has a staff correspondent at the trials. Other Virginia papers have largely ignored the affair.

Attorneys for the T.W.O.C., the C. I. O. textile union, among them Arthur P. McNulty of New York, will appeal every conviction to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, for they believe that if a single conviction of this sort is permitted to stand the organized labor movement in Virginia will be virtually destroyed.

Lynchings - 1937
Legislation Relating to.

5738

Senate Board Approves Anti-Lynching Measure



ROBERT WAGNER

FREDERICK VAN NUYS

WASHINGTON, June 10 (AP) — A favorable report from a senate judiciary sub-committee on the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill sped another major controversy toward the senate floor today.

Chairman Van Nuys (D., Ind.) of the subcommittee said he hoped to win approval of the bill by the full committee Monday. This would send the controversial measure to the senate, where southern senators have filibustered against such legislation in the past.

Van Nuys said the subcommittee approved the measure by himself and Senator Wagner (D., N. Y.), as a substitute for the Gavagan bills recently passed by the house. He added he had informed Representative Gavagan (D., N. Y.) is agreeable to the change.

"The senate bill is simpler and more easily enforceable," Van Nuys told newspapermen.

Friends of anti-lynching legislation insisted it would pass the senate this session.

The senate bill would use federal power to force state prosecution of lynchers.

Lynching Is Defined

The measure would define lynching as violence committed by a "mob" of three or more persons who attempted by physical violence to exercise punishment upon an individual in the custody of a peace officer.

Violence between gangsters or in labor disorders would be specifically excluded.

The bill would make a local peace officer guilty of a felony and subject to a fine up to $5,000, or imprisonment up to five year, or both if he failed to make diligent efforts to protect a prisoner or wilfully neglected to apprehend a lynching mob.

The attorney general of the United States would be authorized to investigate violations of the law on the basis of sworn information that a local officer had not discharged his duty.

A provision of the bill, regarded by its friends as vital, would make counties in which lynchings occurred liable for civil damages to victims or their legal representatives.

Civil damage could be sought in federal district court, and claims prosecuted by the United States attorney general.

HOUSE LEADER WARNS STATES ON LYNCHINGS

5-28-37

Sovereign Rights at Stake If Violence Continues, Texan Tells Society

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

BY KENNETH TOLER

JACKSON, Miss., May 27.—States must extend their governmental responsibility to the suppression of lynching if they are to remain sovereign, Representative Hatton W. Sumners of Texas, chairman of the House judiciary committee, said here today.

"Unless this is done, the federal government will step in and usurp this power and the states will no longer retain their sovereignty," he told a mass meeting of the Mississippi division, Society of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Violence Reduced

Citing the improved condition in respect to law enforcement, Mr. Sumners said since 1892 the number of lynchings has been reduced 85 per cent.

"Yet," he said, "at this session of Congress over 60 bills to prevent lynching by giving the federal government the right to prosecute states were introduced.

"The people backing these bills are those residing in big gang-ridden cities where combinations of crooked politicians and gangsters murder and terrorize and rob. They are looking with a spyglass into the southern states for something to bestir righteous indignation.

"They do not give us any encouragement for the improved condition, which last year revealed less than nine lynchings. We are working out this condition, and if let alone will have it under complete control.

Two Negroes Lynched

"We did not have any hope of defeating the Gavagan bill in the House recently, but we had expected to send it to the Senate with a bigger negative vote than followed the Dyer anti-lynching bill in 1922.

"But, in the middle of our fight, and on the eve of a vote, a mob in a southern state (Mississippi—the double lynching at Duck Hill) took two prisoners from officers and lynched them."

Mr. Sumners said during his more than 24 years in the House, it had fallen to his lot to defend the sovereign right and duty of the states to govern within the scope of their governmental capacity.

He said he favored state suppression of lynching instead of federal intervention.

Understand People

"We have reduced lynching 98 per cent and we can finish the job," he said. "Why not leave us alone and see what we can do about it further? We know how to do the job better than the federal government, because we understand our people.

"You cannot make a government of a free people, our sort of government, functions from the top downward. A great governmental overlord cannot be established in Washington to place the hand of superior authority above the voice of the elected representatives of the people, and perpetuate this system of government.

"If there ever was a time when we needed to turn in the other direction, it is now.

"The bill now before the Senate would give the federal government the power to lay its hands in coercion upon the governor of a state and upon the officers of a state upon the sovereign states themselves, to hale them before a federal court and put them in stripes if perchance they fail to obey the mandate of the federal government wtih regard to procedure in the discharge of their state governmental duties.

"God Almighty in His knowledge and wisdom has devised the plan of teaching people how to do a thing by having them to do it. No people ever preserved the power of self-government except by exercising that power. Memphis Press

Law of Nature

"They must govern or they lose the power to govern. That is fixed by a law of nature universal in its application.

"No people ever were able to preserve their liberty who lost the ability to operate a system of free government. No people were ever able to preserve that ability or any other ability except by continuing to use it.

"I come from the south, and I speak advisedly about this thing.

"We do not want the necessity to govern in this matter taken from us. It is not because we want to see these poor people lynched, but because we know that only the communities can protect."

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
June 10, 1937

ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS

While the anti-lynching bills before Congress have been laying dormant for some time, it is no indication however, that these bills will be allowed to remain pigeon holed until after adjournment. These bills have been introduced by Democratic congressmen and senators and, of course, supported by the Republicans, their enactment into law is practically assured.

The senators from the southern states are unanimously opposed to their passage, but with a combination of eastern and western states' Democrats and the Republicans, a majority is expected. The proposed bills provide for imposing a responsibility on the states, where lynchings occur to discharge certain financial obligations to the dependents of the victims.

The Gavan anti-lynching bill has been passed by the House with a majority of 277 to 120. This bill is now before the senate, but it has been held up by senators from the South. The senate has passed the Wagner-Van Nuys bill which has been sent over to the House for ratification, but it is being delayed for the time being, by southern congressmen. This bill has been referred to a committee composed of advocates of the anti-lynching bills. The committee has as its members, Dietrich, of Illinois; McCarren of Nebraska; both Democrats and Austin of Vermont, Republican, the chairman of the committee is also an anti-lynching advocate. Naturally, with the complexion of this committee, a favorable recommendation for passage will be returned.

For a number of years, bills of the character of those now pending in the House and Senate, have been introduced in Congress, but through the filibustering of southern senators, they have been able to defeat or carry them over until such bills died a natural death. This time, however, the movement being inaugurated and supported by eastern and western Democrats, the condition is entirely different.

On several occasions in the past, Senator George succeeded in defeating former anti-lynching bills which were intended to affect the southern states, but under

its present relations with the administration, he may not be able to bring about the defeat of these objectionable bills which are purely class legislation and not for the good of all the people.

Of course, it is readily understood that the activities of the Democratic congressmen and senators from the western and eastern states are purely political in order to catch the negro vote which in the balance of power in elections.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
June 12, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILLS

The decision of the Senate judiciary committee's subcommittee to recommend a favorable report on the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill attracted less attention in the South than one would have supposed such a development would attract, signifying as it does a definite advance along the way toward the pitched battle that is expected to ensue when the measure reaches the Senate floor. The subcommittee voted to substitute the Wagner-Van Nuys bill for the Gavagan bill that passed the House of Representatives and that is not good news for the South, either, inasmuch as the Gavagan measure contained provisions that many people were confident would cause it to be invalidated by the courts, so that it seemed preferable to have it passed, if one had to be passed, than a more carefully prepared measure.

Southerners opposed to the anti-lynching legislation have been counting on enough opposition in the Senate to prevent the passage of any measure of the kind, which they oppose not because they are unwilling to see steps taken to prevent lynching, but because no attempt has been made to conceal the fact that the legislation is aimed especially at the South and proposes federal interference in a field of activity that can best be cared for by the individual States. They feel that in the Senate they will receive strong support from such outsiders as Borah of Idaho and that there is less likely to be the quick yielding to pressure from the leaders that was witnessed in the House. Yet they are aware of the fact that negro voters, to whom the anti-lynching legislation has been made to appear as a highly effective protection, have become political factors to be reckoned with in a dozen States and will bring all the force of their influence to bear on as many Senators as possible.

People in the South who are seriously opposed to lynching and have had a part in the movement that has resulted in reducing the number of lynchings year by year until they are now very few by comparison with what they formerly were do not believe that passage of either the Gavagan or the Wagner-Van Nuys bill would discourage lynching further, but on the contrary might lead to new troubles and lawlessness through clashes that would arise when the federal authorities sought to take away from the States the jurisdiction that has all these years seemed to belong to them. Certainly Southerners count on Southern Senators, regardless of their relations with the administration, to make a determined fight against the bill.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
June 15, 1937

Anti Lynching Bills

During the recent trial of the sheriff of an Alabama county for alleged negligence and cowardice in failing to prevent the lynching of a Negro in his custody, the Attorney General declared in open court that he was prepared to prove that the mob had got the wrong man. He asserted, furthermore, that he could show that, due to popular excitement, the sheriff had felt himself "forced" to arrest the innocent victim.

The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that this statement had nothing to do with the case and that the "wrong man" issue was not before it. The accused sheriff was then acquitted.

The lynching process is not merely that of a mob acting as court and executioner over a guilty man. It brings in its train a host of evils, all of them peculiarly sinister.

It is these sinister aspects, involving the possible mobbing of innocent men, that give rise to the repeated attempts to bring the Federal power to bear on lynching cases. The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill now about to reach the United States Senate has its defects and its questionable provisions, such as that making counties in which lynchings occur liable for civil damages, but it does represent a desperate effort to check an intolerable evil.

It is not enough to raise opposition to such defective bills. Some means must be found for erasing the cause of lynchings. It will then be simpler to deal with the effects.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
June 24, 1937

Why An Anti-Lynching Law?

OUT of Washington comes conflicting and disturbing news about the proposed federal anti-lynching law. One day, a journalistic authority informs us that such a bill is dead for this session, while the next day the Senate Judiciary Committee gives overwhelming approval to the Wagner-Van Nuys measure and one of its opponents, Senator Connally of Texas, predicts that it will pass.

In view of these things, it is foolhardy to be overconfident about the defeat of the anti-lynching bill, but it is also too early to lose hope. We urge only one thing, that the members of the Senate from the South remain vigilant.

For decades, Northern fanatics, pandering to negro voters in their own states, have tried to ram a federal anti-lynching law down our throats but the senators of the South, through a threat of filibuster, have always prevented it and they can do the same thing this year if they choose. The power which our Southern men wield in the Senate, with its unlimited debate, can be illustrated also by the "force bill" days.

That the Wagner-Van Nuys bill is a sectional measure, aimed directly at the South in spite of the fact that lynchings in this region have been reduced 5,000 per cent in the last 50 years, is borne out by the fact that its provisions do not extend to violence by gangsters or racketeers and that it has no effect upon labor controversies.

Just why, we do not know. We do not condone lynch mobs, but we think it no less worse for a lynch mob to hang a rapist than it is for a gang to machine-gun a rival, or than it is for a labor mob to beat the brains out of a victim with clubs.

Those in the lynch mobs are murderers. The gangster who kills is a murderer. The man in a labor crowd which deals in death is a murderer. They are all murderers, and they should all be treated as murderers—and state courts, if we are not mistaken, usually handle murder cases.

If we must have federal laws to deal with the lyncher, why does not Congress pass federal laws to deal with the gangster killer or the labor killer? There are ten, twenty, or thirty times more lives lost each year at the hands of gangsters and labor mobs than at the hands of Southern lynchers. Worse still, we are clamping down on the lynchers tighter each year. The gangster remains bad, and the labor mob has become frightening in the eyes of all law-abiding citizens.

The South will keep a close watch on its members of the Senate, and it will remember those who lend their aid in the fight against this anti-lynching bill. It will also remember those who, filled with national political ambitions, dodge around the corner when the bill is called up for debate.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
June 24, 1937

To Force It On Us?

ANTI-LYNCHING sentiment is dominant in the South, in which leaders both intelligent and humane long have battled and with growing effectiveness against this form of lawlessness, but the South knows that the federal anti-lynching bill now before Congress is likely to do more harm than good.

The South, therefore, does not want it.

Yet indications increase that the South will get it anyhow.

The Senate's judiciary committee has voted 13 to 3 for the measure and President Roosevelt's Democratic administration is supporting it strongly.

The Democratic administration in this matter is giving the Democratic South something to remember it by.

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New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 29, 1937

Antilynching Bill

AN INTELLIGENT visitor from Mars or England or anywhere else might find himself confused by the effort to tack a bill against lynching to a congressional measure limiting the length of freight trains. We gather that there was no special enthusiasm over the McCarran bill, as passed by the Senate without a record vote, but seemingly the act was just one of those things which Congress does in its off moments. Opponents of the measure argued that the cost will be passed along to the public, as doubtless will be the case, but some railroad men see merit in the scheme. All of us, if we can put our minds to the problem long enough, hate to think of the cruel jolting to which a train of 100 cars is subjected by the sudden application of air brakes.

In a sense it was accidental that Senator Copeland, the nominal contender for the New York mayoralty, should try to annex the lynching bill to the McCarran measure. The vote of 41 to 34, tabling the scheme, was close enough to suggest that sooner or later the proposal may be attached to a flood control measure or a bill for a new postoffice in Podunk. Just why legislation should be that way is not clear to ordinary folk, but laws are made by our chosen representatives.

Gradually the South is dealing with lynching in the only way it can be handled, which is to create sentiment against it. For every sheriff who proves a coward, there are scores of law officers who risk their lives, or at least their tenure of office, to do their sworn duty. Sooner or later, we sincerely hope, this idea will crystallize into a system of public morals. One of the surest ways not to bring about such a result is to couple it on, like an absurd caboose, behind 70 box cars.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 23, 1937

For an Antilynching Law

[Bristol Herald Courier]

A FEW years ago few if any Southern newspapers favored a Federal antilynching law. Southern newspapers opposed such legislation on the ground that it would infringe the rights of the States. But the newspapers were honest and sincere in their position, they deplored mob lawlessness as strongly as any of their Northern colleagues, and while opposing Federal legislation on the subject they called upon the States to set their faces sternly against the mob and stamp out the evil of lynching.

Today many if not most of the Southern newspapers advocate a Federal antilynching law because they have despaired of the suppression of mob lawlessness by the States.

It is significant that newspapers of a State that apparently has suppressed the mob have joined other Southern newspapers in support of the Federal antilynching bill which has passed the House and is now before the Senate. Lynching is almost exclusively a Southern problem, Virginia is a Southern State, and the newspapers of Virginia are interested in wiping out an evil that is a disgrace to the South.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
August 1, 1937

UNITED AGAINST IT

The latest press dispatches say that practically the entire Southern delegation in Congress is against the Black wage-hour bill. This is not strange, for the delegation is representing the sentiment of Southern people.

For many days the civic organizations of various cities and towns in the South have protested to Senator Black that this bill is objectionable from many standpoints.

And every newspaper coming to The Eagle's exchange table, with one or two minor exceptions, is exposing the evils of the proposed law. Southern people, Southern institutions and Southern newspapers are as united against the wage-hour bill as they are against the anti-lynching bill. Nor is this opposition confined to the South. Many Northern newspapers are against it, as well as many former intimates of Roosevelt.

Two great papers, for example, that are as far apart as the poles in their philosophy as The New York Times and The New York Herald-Tribune, are against the bill.

Under the heading of "The New NRA," The Times says: "When the authors of the bill attempted to codify labor standards for the country as a whole, they ran squarely into the fact that economic and geographical conditions vary enormously in different sections of the country; that there are prevailing 'wage differentials' which are of decisive importance to American industry as it is now organized; that there are depressed areas and depressed trades which cannot stand a jump in wages or a cut in hours; that costs of living vary widely between one section and another, and that almost countless other local influences are actively at work in determining conditions of employment." The Times concludes that the wage-hour problem should be left to the individual States.

And The Herald-Tribune: "It is not a wage and hour bill at all, but a measure to endow five $10,000 political appointees with every weapon available in the legal armory to do about what they like with the economic structure of the United States."

Memphis, Tenn., Commercial Appeal
August 5, 1937

The Supreme Court Vacancy

In spite of his erratic and frequently inconsistent stand on political questions and platforms, Senator Borah of Idaho has earned a deserved reputation for boldness when it comes to the Constitution of the United States. Active as a lawyer before his election to the Senate some 30 years ago, he has lost no opportunity to broaden his familiarity with that remarkable document, and today he occupies a commanding position among authorities who profess to understand the economic, social and political factors which went to make up its groundwork.

The country recalls the exhaustive study Senator Borah made of the gold question, which resulted in the conclusion that Congress has the right to authorize a devaluation of the currency, a stand upheld by the Supreme Court. It also recalls his keen reasoning in support of the right of the states to prescribe the qualifications of voters, particularly the Southern States; and his contention that the Anti-Lynching Bill is unconstitutional in that it undertakes to usurp the power of the states to suppress crime.

Now, Senator Borah has sent the Constitution experts to their books with the insistence that there is no legal vacancy on the Supreme Bench. He contends that Justice Van Devanter, who retired under the Summers Act, is still a member of the court and that President Roosevelt has no right to nominate a successor.

There is little probability that the Senator's contention will prevail, but it must be conceded that he has raised an interesting question.

The Supreme Court is rooted not in an act of Congress, but in the Constitution itself. Congress may create inferior courts, but the Supreme Court is the creature of the Constitution. The only way a vacancy may exist is through death, resignation or removal. Unless and until one of these contingencies occurs, a justice serves during good behavior.

Some years ago Congress provided that district judges must retire at the age of 70 and continue to draw their salaries. A few months ago this concession was extended to circuit and supreme judges. Justice Devanter was the first to take advantage of it.

The question is whether mere retirement can be interpreted as a resignation. The act does not say, as it could legally say, that a justice might resign and still receive his salary. On the contrary, it says that he may still function as a judge, subject to the call of the Chief Justice. If, when the Supreme Court convenes in October, Chief Justice Hughes found the docket crowded, he could recall Justice Van Devanter and assign him to active work.

President Roosevelt refuses to admit the seriousness of Senator Borah's contention. Though declining a formal statement, he points to an opinion by Attorney General Cummings which holds that the President does not have to name a successor while the Senate is in session, but may wait until adjournment and make a recess appointment. This is taken to mean that the attorney general upholds the Sumners Act and concedes that a vacancy exists.

Aside from the purely legal phases of the question is that of public policy, the policy of providing for the retirement of public servants in their aging years. The Government has long recognized this. Virtually every department of the public service is taken care of under retirement laws. There is no valid reason why a judge who has given his best years to official duties and approaches an age when the duties become irksome should not be able to lay down his burden and receive the same consideration that an army or naval officer or a postoffice clerk.

The mere fact that Justice Van Devanter took advantage of the act and hints that Justice Sutherland is considering a similar course, indicates that members of the Court regard it as constitutional. In fact, nobody seemed to doubt its constitutionality until Senator Borah came to the front. In any event, it furnishes an entertaining diversion for an otherwise dull and listless prolongation of a hot and wornout Congress.

Chattanooga, Tenn. News
July 28, 1937

A Test Vote on the Anti-Lynching Bill

TAMMANY'S espousal of the Anti-Lynching Bill in Congress for political purposes is well known. Tammany has no lynching problem, and it wishes to woo Negro votes, particularly in the North and in Harlem. Hence, it favors the bill to have the Government handle the lynching problem. The News has campaigned against lynching in season and out, but we believe the Southern States should handle the problem themselves—until it is thoroughly demonstrated they are unwilling or unable to do so.

Monday, Senator Copeland, Tammany's candidate for Mayor of New York, introduced the Anti-Lynching bill as a rider to the McCarran bill to limit the length of freight trains. The rider was tabled by the rather narrow vote of 41 to 34. Leading opponents are said to fear that the Anti-Lynching bill will pass the Senate, as it has already passed the House.

The vote on the Anti-Lynching bill as a rider was interesting. Southern Senators voted against it almost to a man, Mr. Tydings being the only exception. Senator La Follette and Senator Frazier, Progressives, sided with the Administration, which favored defeat of the rider.

Students of politics can see much of significance in the roll call on this rider. While some of those who voted for it's passage are loyal Roosevelt men, most of the Administration's staunch supporters can be found on the side favoring tabling.

Study the vote:

FOR TABLING—41

Democrats—37

Adams	Duffy	Neely
Andrews	Ellender	Overton
Bailey	Harrison	Pepper
Barkley	Hatch	Pittman
Bilbo	Johnson (Col.)	Radcliffe
Black	King	Russell
Bone	Lonergan	Schwellenbach
Brown (N. H.)	McCarran	Sheppard
Byrd	McGill	Smith
Byrnes	McKellar	Thomas (Utah)
Caraway	Minton	Van Nuys
Chavez	Murray	Wheeler
Connally		

Republicans—2

Davies, Frazier

Progressive—1

La Follette

Farmer-Labor—1

Lundeen

AGAINST TABLING—34

Democrats—24

Brown (Mich.)	Green	Pope
Bulkley	Herring	Schwartz
Bulow	Hitchcock	Smathers
Copeland	Holt	Thomas (Okla.)
Dieterich	Hughes	Truman
Donahey	Lee	Tydings
Gerry	Lewis	Walsh
Gillette	Logan	
	Maloney	

Republicans—10

Austin	Lodge	Vandenberg
Borah	McNary	White
Capper	Steiwer	
Hale	Townsend	

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
August 4, 1937

SACRIFICE OF THE SOUTH

HOW little "ice" Southern Democrats cut when Democrats of the North feel that they can improve their position by turning against the South, is demonstrated in the attitude on the ani-lynch bill as well as in the wage-hour proposal.

There is Senator Copeland, for instance, who, as a side line, is running for mayor of New York. He has become a rabid supporter of the anti-lynch bill because he feels that it will appeal to the 250,000 negroes who reside in Harlem and who have a large voice in the election of public officials. That the bill constitutes a flagrant violation of state rights and is a distant blow to the Democratic South, concerns him no whit.

And what is true of Copeland in New York is true of some other Democrats in states like Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana, where the negro vote is a big factor in elections.

The prevailing idea seems to be that the South is Democratic anyway; that its vote can be countered upon no matter what happens, and so plenty of things are happening these days.

Ft. Myers, Fla., News Press
August 2, 1937

YANKEE POLITICS

The South might as well get ready to put up with a vote-getting measure for Yankee politicians which is pending in congress under the guise of an "anti-lynching" bill. It has already passed the house and a test in the senate last week indicated enough votes to adopt it there. Coming up as a rider to the "long train" bill another measure with more politics than merit in it—the anti-lynching amendment was defeated 41 to 34 but the idea was to get rid of it as a rider and let the train bill through. With that accomplished several senators who voted to table the lynching amendment explained they were really for it, and enough of the 41 went on record to show that the bill will carry if it ever comes to a vote. The only thing that can stop it is a filibuster and while southern senators will enlist for the duration in that enterprise there is no assurance that they can prevail against a majority determined to wear them out.

They can, perhaps, make something less offensive of the anti-lynching bill than its present form or force its application on other sections as well as the South. As it stands it merely constitutes a nuisance in the southern states by casting slurs which politicians, both democratic and republican, will capitalize in angling for negro votes in the North. However, no matter how unenforceable the law may be it will be a very real nuisance and will leave a trail of trouble if it ever gets on the statute books.

Briefly, it provides that any governmental unit (city or county) in which a lynching occurs "shall be liable to each person injured, or next of kin, for a sum not less than $2,000 or more than $10,000 as monetary compensation for injury or death," with the case to be tried in federal court. This means that should a lynching occur in Fort Myers the city would have to pay from $2,000 to $10,000 with the federal government prosecuting through the U. S. attorney general and a federal jury determining the damages.

The bill does not provide for strictly regional application but the insincerity of professions that it covers the entire country is evidenced by an exception that "lynching shall not be deemed to include such as are commonly designated as gangsters or racketeers, nor violence occurring during the course of picketing or any incident in connection with any labor dispute." In other words northern towns aren't going to be held responsible for their gang wars and riots but southern towns must pay for outbreaks over which control is even less practicable.

The bill is frank in making a record of sectional animus and its proponents make no bones about stating on the floor of the senate, as Senator Copeland did the other day in offering the rider, that their motive is to cater to the negro vote. That is all there is to the anti-lynching bill. It is Yankee politics pure and simple. However, it is a brand of politics from which there is no escape when a majority goes in for it. The South was a party to something like that when it joined in fastening prohibition on sections of the country which did not want it. We may have to take our dose in return but there is no way of making us like it.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
August 4, 1937

Senator Smith Fears Democratic Party May Be Disrupted

Abolition of the Democratic party's "two thirds rule," the anti-lynching bill and other measures, are part of a general scheme whereby the great cities will control the party, Senator Smith of South Carolina declares.

Whether Senator Smith is unduly alarmed over recent events, only time will tell. Certainly we hope, and we know such is the wish [illegible]

[illegible] were united. [illegible] more insidious than [illegible] in 1867—and [illegible] be effected by a [illegible] party is no mat- [illegible] all see failure to [illegible] Bankheads, Byrneses, [illegible] Harrisons and other 'conservatives' they will vote the Southern negroes in the Democratic party. That is their 'anti-lynching plan' is a part of it. The South has little dream of the danger confronting it."

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Filibuster Is Aimed At Lynch Bill

Southerners In Senate Start Fight As Crop Measure Is Delayed

Program Is Upset

Republicans Tangle House Procedure By Attacking Call To Special Session

By RICHARD L. TURNER

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16—(AP)—Administration leaders helplessly watched their well-laid plans go awry today and President Roosevelt's special session program came to an abrupt, if temporary, halt.

In the Senate, meantime, Southerners conducted an old-fashioned filibuster against anti-lynching legislation, adorned with the usual trimmings of full-throated oratory and lengthy reading from old Congressional Records.

In the House, while confusion got the better of Speaker Bankhead's gavel, Republicans spoke bitingly of calling a special session with no work ready to be done. Then they blocked an effort to adjourn until Friday.

The root of the difficulty was the fact that, while both Houses had agreed to take up crop control legislation immediately upon reconvening, their agriculture committees were not ready to submit a bill for consideration on the floor.

The President had called for a farm bill, wage and hour legislation, government reorganization and regional planning, and had given a signal to go ahead with preliminary work on tax revision.

Only Government reorganization legislation was ready. House leaders decided yesterday that the time was inopportune for considering it, and in the Senate the anti-lynching issue was interposed today.

The chairman of the committees which have charge of revenue legislation indicated that tax revision, which has been demanded as a means of encouraging business, might be deferred until January.

The wage and hour bill passed last session by the Senate was still securely sewed up in the House Rules Committee, but an effort was begun today to rip it loose by means of a petition. If 218 signatures are obtained, the bill will go onto the floor automatically.

Chairman Norton (D), New Jersey, of the House Labor Committee, instituted the action. At the beginning of the day's session she laid the petition on the speaker's desk and a long queue of representatives awaited an opportunity to sign.

Only 45 had the chance during the short session for signatures must be attached while the House is meeting. But, when the adjournment was taken, a sizeable line was still waiting.

The Senate, meeting for the first business day of the new session, quickly found itself tangled in an intricate parliamentary snarl.

The cause was that in addition to designating crop control as the first order of business, the Senate had made the anti-lynching bill the second item upon its program.

Senator Barkley (D), Kentucky, the majority leader, tried in vain to work out a back-stage agreement with proponents of the anti-lynching measure, under which the Senate could go ahead with the Government reorganization bill of Senator Byrnes (D), South Carolina.

Byrnes, a bitter foe of anti-lynching bills, as well as the author of the reorganization measure, stole a march on the supporters of the former by obtaining the floor at the beginning of the session.

However, in the afternoon Senator Wagner (D), New York, succeeded in making a motion that the anti-lynching bill be debated.

Then the filibuster began. Bitterly, Senator Connally (D), Texas, warned his colleagues that an effort to pass the bill would cause "some little delay." He went into a long dissertation on the fact that the special session was called to enact the President's program.

"I fail to find anywhere in the President's message any mention of this matter," he said. "What was the session called for? I ask the leaders of the majority and the minority."

Grinning broadly, Senator McNary, of Oregon, the Republican leader, answered: "We don't know, ourselves."

"I do know," said Senator Barkley and he enumerated the bills listed by the President, observing, however, that under the circumstances, consideration of the anti-lynching bill would not violate the special order of business.

Connally accused Wagner of introducing the bill "to go off on a vote catching expedition in Harlem." The Texan pleaded for quick action on farm legislation, asserting that "the cotton farmers in my State and in other Southern States are suffering as they have never suffered since 1914." He added sarcastically:

"And we will give them an anti-lynching bill to relieve your depression! The great farm leader from New York, Mr. Wagner, offers this as a panacea for their ills."

At another point, he said:

"I know you're going to pass this bill and I know a lot of you will be ashamed when you do it and more ashamed after you do it . . .

"But I don't blame you folks who need the votes and have to have them to be elected."

Then he began an argument that the anti-lynching bill is unconstitutional.

"But the Supreme Court is still across the street," he shouted, while senators smiled, recalling the fight over the reorganization of the court last session. "It's still there."

Thanks God For Court

"And I know one justice who will vote that this bill is unconstitutional. He is Mr. Justice Black, of Alabama."

"Thank God, the old court's over there and when they put Mr. Justice Black over there, they put a man over there who's going to hold this bill unconstitutional."

Connally then produced what he called a "prejudgment opinion by Mr. Justice Black" on the constitutionality of the bill. The document was a filibuster speech made by Black when the anti-lynching bill was before the Senate in 1935.

Connally sent it to the desk and most of the remainder of the afternoon was taken up in a reading of the 14-page address by the clerk.

In the House, Representative Rayburn, the Democratic leader, asked unanimous consent for adjournment until Friday, as soon as the chamber had convened. But Representative Church (R), Illinois, who blocked such a move yesterday, intervened.

"Mr. Speaker, I object," he shouted, and then, pandemonium broke loose.

While Rayburn tried to make himself heard in a motion to adjourn until tomorrow instead, many members vainly attempted to obtain the floor.

Above the tumult, Representative Rich (R), Pennsylvania, finally bellowed:

"We were called here by the President of the United States to transact business. Is this any way to do business?"

He was howled down, and Rayburn made his motion to adjourn until tomorrow. Representative Snell (R), New York, the minority leader, forced a roll call vote, upon which the motion carried.

Effort To Shift Burden Blocked

They blocked, 42-25, an effort by Southern senators to shift a part of the burden of their filibuster to the shoulders of the Senate reading clerk.

The vote came when Senator Pepper (D), Florida, proposed that an address delivered by Majority Leader Barkley (D), Kentucky, on his recent European trip be read to the chamber. Senator Minton (D), Indiana, objected. So did Barkley.

Senator Harrison (D), Mississippi, and Senator Connally (D), Texas, opponents of the bill, contended the speech should be read as a demonstration of respect for Barkley. They demanded a vote.

When the result was announced, Barkley told the chamber, "That's one vote this session in which I was able to command a majority."

Deprived of an opportunity to rest his voice, Pepper resumed his address. His voice rising to oratorial heights, he flailed the proponents of the bill, which makes wilful failure to prevent a lynching a Federal offense. At one time he took the proponents to task for "dabbling time away with this measure when the country is crying for correction of the maladjustments of the present economic disturbance."

Senator Wagner (D), New York, one of the authors of the measure, reminded Pepper that the farm bill, most important of the President's proposals to the special session, was not ready.

Connally said that proponents of the anti-lynch bill were "failing to uphold the President's hands." He contended they were pressing other legislation ahead of Mr. Roosevelt's program.

This brought a retort from Senator Clark (D), Missouri, that Connally hadn't always upheld the President's hands, referring to Connally's vote against the President's court reorganization proposal in the last session.

"I am not one of those senators," Connally replied, "who wraps his robe about him and proclaims at home that he is upholding the hands of the President and then by devious and uncertain ways maneuvers to thwart the aims of the President."

Tradition came into its own when Senator George (D), Georgia, went to the defense of states rights, as his share of the argument against the measure.

"There is a strange, new doctrine that the United States may do anything by stretching and twisting," George declared.

The House, whiling away another day with a series of vehement, if unrelated speeches, heard Republican members take up the cry. One of them, Eaton, of New Jersey, insisted that Congress, "stop twiddling its thumbs in idle bewilderment" and "meet the menacing conditions of the hour."

Farm Bill Shaped

Meanwhile, there were signs of progress in the preparation of a farm bill, first item on the Roosevelt special session program.

Chairman Smith (D), South Carolina, of the Senate agriculture committee, announced an agreement upon a "ever normal granary" bill, fashioned after the administration pattern, except that more compulsory crop control may be imposed for cotton.

A House subcommittee decided to propose marketing quotas for wheat, subject to a referendum of the farmers involved, and a 20-cent processing tax. The full committee on agriculture, however, remained widely divided on the best method of attacking the problem.

Leaders hope that a farm bill is perfected by the present period of confusion and delay will be mitigated. The Senate is ready to shelve the lynching discussions whenever the measure is brought in.

Anti-Lynching Bill Provisions Listed

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—(AP)—The anti-lynching bill under discussion in the Senate provides:

That counties and municipalities shall be responsible for lynchings within their borders.

That such governmental subdivisions shall be liable to a lynching victim, or his next of kin, for a sum not exceeding $10,000.

That the subdivisions may offer as "affirmative defense" that the police officers in charge used all their powers to prevent the lynching.

That an officer who fails to make diligent effort to prevent a lynching may be fined to a maximum of $5,000, imprisoned for five years or both.

Tax Revision Plea Shakes Congress

Harrison Reminds Loss Of Revenue Must Be Made Up Elsewhere

Farm Bill Shaped

Backers Of Anti-Lynching Bill Win Skirmish With Blow At Long Filibuster

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—(AP)—A seemingly inexorable demand for tax revision to energize business arose today from both Houses of Congress while the legislative machinery continued to idle.

Abruptly, the plea cut into the Senate's persisting filibuster against anti-lynching legislation. It produced a short, sharp discussion and a warning from Chairman Harrison (D), Mississippi, of the finance committee, that reductions in one tax schedule must be offset by increases in another, so that no loss of revenue might result.

Backers of the anti-lynching bill won a test in the Senate today.

LYNCH BILL FOES MAP PLANS

Strategic Battle Is Being Conducted By Opposition

WRITER QUOTED

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Of interest to colored people throughout the country is the strategic battle against the anti-lynching bill being waged by the Southern bloc headed by Senators Tom Connally Texas, Ellison D. Smith, South Carolina and William Bankhead Alabama.

With increasing demand of the general public that the administration "do something for business," champions of the bill must face the possibility that the anti-lynch measure may have to yield its place on the Senate calendar to the widely discussed tax revision program, recently promulgated by President Roosevelt.

Proponents of the anti-lynch bill, however, headed by Senators Robert F. Wagner, Democrat, New York and Frederick Van Nuys, Democrat of Indiana, are demanding that their measure shall maintain its position of precedence over all other bills on the calendar after the farm bill has been disposed of.

LATEST CHECK UP

The latest checkup of the Senate reveals at least 73 votes for the bill and only 23 opposed to it and its passage is virtually assured, when and if, the minority's filibuster ends. Declared Senator Connally after last week's longwinded verbal tirade against the bill: "We (the Senators) talked a whole week about it, and only talked once in place." Since then, 60 amendments have been filed or are about to be filed on it, so it appears debate on the amendments could go on indefinitely.

Observers here inclined to the opinion that the Southern Senators hope that after the farm bill is passed, there will be no more than two weeks left in which to consider the anti-lynch bill, in accordance to its position of precedence on the calendar. If this happens, the opponents can easily filibuster until the Christmas holidays intervene.

"DOUBLE CROSSING"

There are others who openly charged the administration with "double crossing" the proponents of the anti-lynch bill and with sidetracking it in the maze of Senatorial subterfuges. They point to the failure of the President to rally to their cause and declare himself as favoring its immediate passage. It has been generally conceded that a definite statement from the President, ordering it up for consideration at the present extra session, would assure the bill's passage. Federal anti-lynch legislation, was given a "behind the scenes" view of the recent filibuster in the November 24 issue of the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Writing under the caption, "Comedy," Paul Mallon, noted writer and political analyst, said:

"It can now be told the anti-lynching comedy which ran the first week of the Senate session was a well-planned show. Mr. R. (the President) did not order the bill up. He wanted reorganization but Leader Barkley could not get the votes for it. So they used the anti-lynching filibuster to smoke the farm bill out. THERE WAS NO REAL PRESSURE BEHIND ANTI-LYNCHING. . . Even Senator Wagner now knows that the anti-lynching bill will not pass this session."

Mallon Is Quoted

"Commenting on the Mallon article, and deploring the inactivity of the President in connection with the bill, Atty. Chester K. Gillespie, Cleveland lawyer, a former member of the Ohio Legislature and former president of the Cleveland Branch NAACP, last Friday wrote Walter White, national secretary NAACP, as follows:

"If this article is true, our Association is undoubtedly being laughed at behind closed doors in Washington. It seems to me the time has arrived when we should put all the pressure we can on the President, because it appears definitely he is not doing anything for the bill. Everyone knows that a word from the President would place the bill in a position where it could be voted on. There seems to be no doubt that two-thirds of the Senators and Congressmen will vote for the bill if they ever get a chance to do so."

Claims Bill Unfair To South

Resolution Given Ga. Senate For Approval

A resolution condemning the anti-lynching bill, now a matter of business in the United States Senate, was adopted by the State House of Representatives and sent to the State Senate, it was revealed Tuesday.

"The anti-lynch bill is manifestly unjust, unfair and would work an oppressive burden upon the entire south," the resolution charges.

Representatives Harrell of Brooks, Cochran of Thomas, Coleman of Downdes and Dollar of Grady, in offering the resolution, suggested that Georgia's United States senators and congressmen be "commended" for "their valiant opposition" to the Wagner anti-lynch bill in Congress.

The resolution offered by the representatives charges that strikes, rioting and similar disorders in the industrial centers of the north and east have caused more loss of life "than all the lynchings in the south."

In drawing up the resolution the four representatives urged that the General Assembly suggest to the Georgia congressional delegation that "should this bill (Anti-Lynching Bill) be enacted into law the losses of life of strikers and peace officers be compensated in the same manner as in cases of lynchings and that the county authorities be charged with liability and subject to the same penalties."

CURRENT OPINION

DEBATING THE LYNCHING BILL

(From the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Nov. 17, 1937).

The filibuster is a questionable legislative device at best, but when it is designed to thwart the will of majorities of better than 2-to-1 in both branches of Congress, it is more dubious than ever. Now that the Federal anti-lynching bill is to be taken up as the next order of business in the Senate, it will be interesting to see how far Southern senators are willing to go in defeating the will of the people.

There is no question that this country wants the anti-lynching bill. There is no question in our minds, either, that the South is willing to accept the measure, even though a good many Southerners are either openly skeptical or actively hostile. As far as Virginia is concerned, eight daily newspapers are advocating the passage of a Federal bill, and their attitude seems to have provoked little or no excitement among their readers.

The GALLUP poll has just completed another survey of sentiment throughout the country on this issue, and again it shows that such sentiment is overwhelming. Even in the South, 57 per cent of the people are found to favor "making lynching a Federal crime," and elsewhere the percentage is considerably higher. The favorable proportion in the country as a whole was found to be 72 per cent. It will be recalled that similar results were obtained by this same survey last winter, when 65 per cent of Southerners were recorded as favorable. Incidentally, the accuracy of the GALLUP system has recently been vindicated by gain in the electoral triumphs of MAYOR LaGUARDIA in New York and RICHARD READING in Detroit. Both results were predicted almost exactly by the GALLUP poll.

Now that the rest of the week is apparently available for debating the anti-lynching bill, is it too much to hope that the Southern senators will discuss this measure on its merits, instead of consuming days in flamboyant and combastic posturing, in apostrophes to the fair name of Southern womanhood, and in hysterical outbursts concerning the future of Southern civilization?

The time at their disposal is about right for a thorough and informing debate of the true issues, without interferring with PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S program in any serious particular. The Administration hasn't any legislation ready for presentation this week, except that for re-organizing the Federal Government and a few days' delay in its consideration will not matter particularly.

If the Southern senators will only keep their shirts on, and debate the anti-lynching bill as it should be debated, we can have an orderly disposition of the measure by the end of the week, and no item on the President's program requiring prompt attention will have suffered. If, on the other hand, the fire-eaters from Dixie insist on interspersing their burning tributes to Southern womanhood with interminable extracts from the Bible, the **Congressional Record** and treatises on the love-life of the earwig, they may stall the legislative machinery indefinitely, at a time when this will be decidedly bad for the country.

It remains to be seen how the Southern senators will behave in this emergency.

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

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Truth On Lynching Issue Plea Of Senator Graves

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—(AP)—A turbulent filibuster against the anti-lynching bill calmed down for twenty minutes today while the Senate listened attentively to a quiet, emotional talk by Mrs. Dixie Bibb Graves, the new Alabama Senator.

Mrs. Graves's address against the bill, her maiden talk in the Senate, drew applause—a rare compliment in the chamber.

Appointed by Governor Bibb Graves, her husband, to fill the Senate vacancy resulting from the resignation of Justice Hugo L. Black, Mrs. Graves attacked the anti-lynching bill on the ground that it would "strike down the sovereignty of indestructible States."

Attired in a simple black dress piped with white, the Senator used only the simplest gestures during her talk. Some watchers in the gallery thought they saw tears in her eyes when she told the Senate that some advocates of the anti-lynching bill had been misinformed about conditions in the South.

Very much at ease, she stood erectly at her desk. She spoke slowly and distinctly, with an extemporaneous fluency, envied by many a Senator. When she had finished, Senate rules were forgotten in a burst of applause and senators crowded about her with their congratulations.

"During the brief time that I shall be here," she had said, "I should like to make one plea—that you do not press down on the brows of your sister States this brand of shame (the anti-lynching bill)."

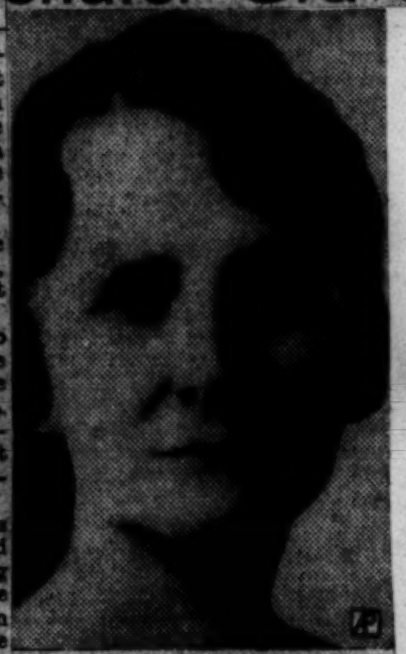
"I plead with the members of the Senate," she continued, "to seek and find the truth. You should seek the truth, know the truth and the truth will make you free."

Mrs. Graves said every section of the country had a heritage of extra-legal punishment. The South, by effective law enforcement, aided by an aroused public opinion, reduced lynchings in the last ten years, she said, and in another five years it will be wiped out entirely.

"Isn't that an amazing record?" she asked.

The Senator said she abhorred lynching, but added:

"Only a compelling emergency should cause this body to strike down the sovereignty of indestructible States. The situation is being solved. Would it be wise to change to another remedy—a remedy untried?"



SENATOR GRAVES

When her short address ended, both Republicans and Democrats clustered about her desk to extend congratulations.

The bill would penalize officers who failed to make diligent efforts to prevent lynchings. Counties in which lynching occurred would be liable to damages.

Before and after Mrs. Graves talked, shouting, gesticulating senators exchanged thrusts. Senator Connally, (D), Texas, one of the most active filibusterers against the anti-lynching proposal, criticised Senator Clark, (D), Missouri, because Clark had an anti-lynching poster hung on the Senate wall.

Waving his arms, Connally shouted that he resented "the Senate being made the sewer for the vaporings of the Senator from Missouri."

Clark later had the sign removed, saying that it had "served its purpose." He said, however, it would be hung up again later.

Another outburst occurred when Senator Van Nuys (D), Indiana, and Senator Smith (D), South Carolina, clashed over Van Nuy's assertion that the anti-lynching filibuster was "holding up the President's program."

Contending the measure was aimed at capturing negro votes, Smith shouted:

"Instead, let's make [illegible]

tion for us to buy the negro votes on the South Side of Chicago and in Harlem and see how much it will cost, but don't let us try to buy them by doing this thing to a great section of the country."

Smith, whose sallies brought frequent guffaws from the galleries, shouted at one point:

"I could call a pole cat a geranium but it would be no less a pole cat. You can call this bill humanitarianism but it's still the same thing."

Senator Overton (D), Louisiana, attacked the provision of the law which excludes racketeering deaths from the lynching penalties. He said the law "protected" racketeers.

LYNCH PROPOSAL TALK FLOOD STOPS UPPER CHAMBER

Proponents Refuse To Take Up Matters Specified in Special Session Call Until Plan of Last Congress Is Acted Upon

WAGE-HOUR DRIVE GETS UNDER WAY

45 Representatives Sign Petition To Wrest Bottled Up Measure From Committee Graveyard.

President Roosevelt's program for special session comes to abrupt, if temporary, halt in congress; farm bill, first order of business, still is in committee; southern senators filibuster against anti-lynching bill; tax revision may be deferred until January. (Page 1.)

Senate farm leaders ask Secretary Wallace to help clarify confusion over various crop control proposals; dispute over cotton threatens to delay crop control bill. (Page 1.)

Wisconsin dairy products, fearing "subsidized industry" in the south, start drive against agriculture bill. (Page 5.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—(AP)—Administration leaders helplessly watched their well-laid plans go awry today and President Roosevelt's program for the special session came to an abrupt, if temporary halt.

In the senate, meantime, southerners conducted an old-fashioned filibuster against anti-lynching legislation, adorned with the usual trimmings of full-throated oratory and lengthy reading from old Congressional Records.

In the house, while confusion got the better of Speaker Bankhead's gavel, Republicans spoke bitingly of calling a special session with no work ready to be done. Then they blocked an effort to adjourn until Friday.

Committees Not Ready.

The root of the difficulty was the fact that, while both houses had agreed to take up crop control legislation immediately upon reconvening, their agriculture committees were not ready to submit a bill for consideration on the floor.

The President had called for a farm bill, wage and hour legislation, government reorganization and regional planning, and had given a signal to go ahead with preliminary work on tax revision.

Only government reorganization legislation was ready. House leaders decided yesterday that the time is inopportune for considering it, and in the senate the anti-lynching issue was interposed today.

Hint Tax Delay.

The chairmen of the committees which have charge of revenue legislation indicated that tax revision, which has been demanded as a means of encouraging business, might be deferred until January.

The wage and hour bill passed last sesion by the senate was still securely sewed up in the house rules committee, but an effort was begun today to rip it loose by means of a petition. If 218 signatures are obtained, the bill will go on to the floor automatically.

Chairman Norton, Democrat, New Jersey, of the house labor committee, instituted the action. At the beginning of the day's session she laid the petition on the speaker's desk and a long queue of representatives awaited an opportunity to sign.

Sign Petition.

Only 45 had the chance during the short session for signatures must be attached while the house is meeting. But, when the adjournment was taken, a sizeable line was still waiting.

The senate, meeting for the first business day of the new session, quickly found itself tangled in an intricate parliamentary snarl.

The cause was that in addition to designating crop control as the first order of business, the senate had made the anti-lynching bill the second item upon its program.

Senator Barkley, Democrat, Kentucky, the majority leader, tried in vain to work out a backstage agreement with proponents of the anti-lynching measure, under which the senate could go ahead with the government reorganization bill of Senator Byrnes, Democrat, South Carolina.

Byrnes Steals March.

Byrnes, a bitter foe of anti-lynching bills, as well as the author of the reorganization measure, stole a march on the supporters of the former by obtaining the floor at the beginning of the session.

However, in the afternoon Senator Wagner, Democrat, New York, succeeded in making a motion that the anti-lynch bill be debated.

Then the filibuster began. Bitterly, Senator Connally, Democrat, Texas, warned his colleagues that an effort to pass the bill would cause "some little delay." He went into a long dissertation on the fact that the special session was called to enact the President's program.

"I fail to find anywhere in the President's message any mention of this matter," he said. "What was the session called for? I ask the leaders of the majority and the minority."

Grinning broadly, Senator McNary, of Oregon, the Republican leader, answered: "We don't know, ourselves."

"I do know," said Senator Barkley and he enumerated the bills listed by the President, observing, however, under the circumstances, consideration of the anti-lynching bill would not violate the special order of business.

...Negro vote in Harlem.

Connally accused Wagner of introducing the bill "to go off on a vote-catching expedition in Harlem." The Texan pleaded for quick action on farm legislation, asserting "the cotton farmers in my state and in other southern states are suffering as they have never suffered since 1914." He added sarcastically:

"And we will give them an anti-lynching bill to relieve your depression! The great farm leader from New York, Mr. Wagner, offers this as a panacea for their ills."

At another point, he said:

"I know you're going to pass this bill and I know a lot of you will be ashamed when you do it and more ashamed after you do it.

"But I don't blame you folks who need the votes and have to have them to be elected."

Then he began an argument to show the anti-lynching bill is unconstitutional.

Thankful for Court.

"But the supreme court is still across the street," he shouted, while senators smiled, recalling the fight over the reorganization of the court last session. "It's still there."

"And I know one justice who will vote that this bill is unconstitutional. He is Mr. Justice Black, of Alabama.

"Thank God, the old court's there and when they put Mr. Justice Black over there, they put a man over there who's going to hold this bill unconstitutional."

Connally then produced what he called a "prejudgment opinion by Mr. Justice Black" on the constitutionality of the bill. The document was a filibuster speech made by Black when the anti-lynching bill was before the senate in 1935.

Reads Black Opinion.

Connally sent it to the desk. The 14-page address was read by the clerk.

In the house, Representative Rayburn, the Democratic leader, asked unanimous consent for adjournment until Friday, as soon as the chamber had convened. But Representative Church, Republican, Illinois, who blocked such a move yesterday, intervened.

"Mr. Speaker, I object," he shouted, and then, pandemonium broke loose.

While Rayburn tried to make himself heard in a motion to adjourn until tomorrow instead, many members vainly attempted to obtain the floor.

"Called for Business."

Above the tumult, Representative Rich, Republican, Pennsylvania, finally bellowed:

"We were called here by the President of the United States to transact business. Is this any way to do business?"

He was howled down, and Rayburn made his motion to adjourn until tomorrow. Representative Snell, Republican, New York, the minority leader, forced a roll call vote, upon which the motion carried.

GEORGE ASSAILS ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Prompt Attention to Tax Revision, Other 'Must' Measures Asked in Talk.

By GLADSTONE WILLIAMS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—In one of the longest speeches he has made on the floor since becoming a member of congress, Senator Walter F. George of Georgia, today demanded recall of the controversial anti-lynching bill and immediate attention to tax revision and other vital matters mentioned in the President's message to congress.

The President did not mention anti-lynching in the message but called congress in extraordinary session to consider legislation designed to dam the recession in business, he said.

"The President," Senator George declared, "called us in extraordinary session and set forth matters in which he wished congress to address itself. He enumerated certain things, and the first of these was farm legislation.

Business Recession.

"He directed attention to the fact that we have a recession in business—that is, that the general tide of business, commerce and industry in the United States is lagging and receding, and he has invited congress to give special attention to that situation."

The Georgian minced no words in severely criticizing a Democratic congress for catapulting into a business recession a measure which he described as particularly obnoxious to the south, pointing out that the present economic situation was sufficient in and of itself to arrest the undivided attention of congress.

He declared it was no answer to say that none of President Roosevelt's "must" legislation was ready for consideration.

"Would it not be heartening to the American people," he asked, "if responsible committees of the senate were seriously considering the very subject matter mentioned in Mr. Roosevelt's message? Would it not make an impression on business if congress had the courage to say, and say emphatically, that it would not trifle away its time with anti-lynching legislation?"

Warns Colleagues.

Previously, he had warned his colleagues that the country was bound to look with more or less derision upon the senate if it continued to waste its time in an effort to bring up anti-lynching legislation.

"There is nothing in the President's call for this extraordinary session to indicate that he had in mind anti-lynching legislation," the senator asserted. "Both leaders in the senate and in the house recognize the necessity of considering only those things mentioned by Mr. Roosevelt. In fact, they made such an appeal through the press of the nation.

"I say, because I believe that the people of the country will, the senate is doing little more than trifling with an opportunity to serve the real interest of America if it continues consideration of anti-lynching.

"The south, my part of the country, is agricultural by 80 or 85 per cent, and in many instances 90 per cent. There was nothing fanciful in the President's address to congress when he reminded us that there was a recession in the tide of business, commerce and industry.

"Farm legislation is too important to every senator from the south and the southeast. It is no possible excuse to say that there is nothing ready. I desire to repeat that it would be far more heartening to the American people, to the great forces of democracy, to every little business enterprise that is closing down and discharging employes, if newspapers could say that the committees of the senate, particularly finance, were given time from the floor to give real consideration to tax matters.

Would Have Progressed.

"I have not the slightest doubt but what we would have made much progress in formulating policies with tax legislation if we had begun consideration when we first met in special session."

He then asked what a senator from the south should do in response to the President's message.

Answering his own query, he declared: "It was the purpose of southern senators, whether the agricultural committee met of not, to work on farm legislation."

An anti-lynching bill, he said, was pending on the senate calendar when he came to congress 15 years ago and might have been pending 15 years before that, adding "it is still with us."

"Any fair and just court in the land," he said, "will declare this one unconstitutional, I am sure, because the rights of the states were not destroyed even by War Between the States."

Greensboro Daily News
Nov. 18, 1937

GOT SOMETHING THERE.

Mention of the pending anti-lynching measure in the senate has served to set off the historical fireworks, just as it has invariably done in the past.

To the forefront of southern defenders of the faith who rushed into a filibuster was Texas' Senator Tom Connally who stressed the emergency nature of the program submitted by President Roosevelt and urged that the Congress give attention where attention is gravely needed instead of blocking consideration by launching into an argument over the long delayed Wagner bill.

The Texas honorable really appears to have something in his advocacy for action upon measures which are needed, upon bills which will aid suffering and hard-pressed humanity, upon legislation which will remedy crying ills. Well to the forefront amongst measures which will fill these purposes is the anti-lynching hill itself. Can Senator Connally or his confreres envision anybody who is in worse shape or, in greater need of governmental aid and protection than a hapless individual who is seized by a mob and barbarously done to death for some crime which he may or may not have committed? The prostrate law, constitutional guarantees, trampled and lynched along with the physical victim, are likewise in acute need for rescue, rehabilitation and strengthening. Farmers getting seven or eight cents a pound for their cotton may be in a bad way. But how many of them would change places with a lifeless object that dangles at the end of a rope and waits for negligent, irresponsible officers of the law to come and cut it down?

There's no emergency, nothing pressing about federal anti-lynching measures, eh? By the way, will somebody in the argu-

...lying around, preferably from among the valiant filibusterers tell us how many lynchings have occurred without retributive action, as if that lack were not understood, while Congress has hemmed, hawed and orated to high heaven about the very act aimed at preventing them and at putting the fear of justice into the hearts of prospective perpetrators?

C. L. Urges Wide Fight For Anti-Lynching Bill

Following is the state of the Young Communist League on the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill:

The reactionary forces and lynch Senators from the South have lined up for a filibuster to strangle all efforts for the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill.

The passage of such a bill to cope with the barbarous crime of lynching is of vital concern to all progressive Americans. The representatives of Southern feudalism must be defeated in their attempts to evade punishment for the dastardly crime of burning human flesh with gasoline and blowtorches.

The rope and faggot must be destroyed as a menace against humanity. Adequate compensation for the victims of lynch terror must be provided. The lynching evil must go if the Negro and white people of the South are to be allowed to improve their wretched lot and free themselves from the rule of tyranny and barbarism.

The National Council of the Young Communist League calls upon all progressive young people and organizations in the South and throughout the country to flood their Senators with telegrams demanding the passage of the Anti-Lynching Bill. In all cities

Carl Ross,
National Executive Secretary,
Angelo Herndon,
National Vice-President

Lynchings-1937
Legislation Relating to.

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THE SOUTH TODAY

Dixie Faces a Lynching Bill

by VIRGINIUS DABNEY

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Editor's Note—Virginius Dabney, born at the University of Virginia, was for many years chief editorial writer, and is now editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Under Mr. Dabney's editorship, the Times-Dispatch was one of the few Southern papers which actively supported the anti-lynching measures that have been before the national congress. Dabney is a regular contributor to the New York Times and has contributed to national periodicals. His book, "Liberalism in the South," received high praise from the critics in this country and abroad.

A federal anti-lynching bill, long the bugaboo of many Southerners, is almost certain to be passed at the next session of congress. Virtually the last chance of beating the measure vanished just prior to the recent adjournment, when senate leaders agreed to put it in a preferred position on the calendar at the next session, thus assuring that it will be debated and voted on. No anti-lynching bill has ever gotten that far in the senate before. In 1922 and 1935, similar measures were filibustered to death by Southern senators before they were ever formally taken up.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill could hardly be stopped by a filibuster now, for it will become the order of business early in the next session. A successful filibuster is far harder to execute when congress is to sit for five or six more months, than it is at the fag end of a long legislative grind.

As a matter of fact, there is much doubt whether a filibuster will even be attempted, with sentiment in both branches of congress so overwhelmingly favorable to federal anti-lynching legislation. The Gavagan bill passed the house this year by the lopsided vote of 277 to 119 and the Wagner-Van Nuys bill was reported out by the senate judiciary committee not long afterwards by 13 to 8. It is understood that at least 70 of the 96 senators will vote for the latter measure. Mr. Gavagan has agreed to allow substitution of the senate bill for his, so that we may look for the Wagner-Van Nuys bill to go on the statute books.

* * *

Shift in Sentiment

Hardly any Southerners in the house voted for the Gavagan bill. The only ones who did were Representatives Maverick of Texas, Crawford Robison of Kentucky, and Reece and Taylor of Tennessee. Five of the seven Missouri members who voted supported it; all six of Maryland's and West Virginia's did likewise, as did four of Oklahoma's. When the bill comes up in the senate, almost all the Southern senators are expected to vote against it.

One wonders, however, whether in doing so they will be representing their constituents. There is a deeply ingrained tradition that the South is violently opposed to any federal "interference" with its handling of the race problem—but has that tradition a substantial basis today? Two or three decades ago, there could have been but one answer to such a question, but there has been a decided shift in sentiment in recent years.

Consider the results of the Gallup pool taken last winter to ascertain the attitude of each section of the country toward federal anti-lynching legislation. This poll, it will be remembered, accurately predicted that President Roosevelt would be re-elected overwhelmingly, despite the contrary findings of the Literary Digest. The Gallup survey showed no less than 65 per cent of the Southern people favorable to a federal anti-lynching bill. In the other sections, favorable sentiment ranged from 65 to 75 per cent.

If there was nothing to confirm the Gallup findings, it might be possible to argue that the poll was inaccurate. But confirmatory evidence is at hand. Whereas twenty years ago, the leading Southern newspapers would have been pawing the air almost daily at the mere thought of such legislation, today a large percentage of them are advocating a federal law and most of the others are neutral.

* * *

Little Protest

Not only so, but if there has been any great outcry from the readers of Southern papers which have favored the law, it has not reached my ears. The paper with which I am connected has had numerous editorials advocating a federal enactment against lynching, but the volume of protest has been wholly negligible. Representative Maury Maverick, the only congressman from the deep South who supported the bill at the recent session, not only voted for it, but spoke for it on the floor. He was quoted some weeks later as saying that he had not received a single protest from his constituents in San Antonio.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill provides that when a lynching has occurred, and information under oath is submitted to the attorney general of the United States that an officer of officers failed to protect the victim the attorney general shall have an investigation made by G-men to ascertain whether the charges are justified. Any official against whom such charges are formally preferred will be tried in the United States District Court, and conviction will carry with it a fine not exceeding $5,000 or prison term of five years or both.

When a county or city in which a lynching takes place is unable to show that its officials charged with the duty of preserving the peace used proper diligence to prevent the lynching, that political subdivision is liable for an amount ranging from $2,000 to $10,000, such amount to be recoverable in the United States District court, and made payable to the victim, if he survives, or his next of kin, if he doesn't.

The bill contains no provision for the prosecution of the members of a lynching mob, its sponsors have deemed it best from various standpoints to hold the peace officers responsible, and to penalize the community with a fine, when mob violence takes place.

Opponents of this legislation contend that it ought to extend to all kinds of killings, such as gang killings and those incident to labor disputes. Southern members of congress have been especially outspoken on this point.

The answer usually made is that the bill is aimed only at those killings in which the state or local government is a silent participant, in that it withholds adequate protection from the victim. It is argued that there is generally no breakdown of the law enforcement machinery when a gang killing or a labor killing occurs, and that the police, the prosecutor and the court usually function normally, under such circumstances. In view of the fact that more than 5,100 persons have been lynched in this country since 1882, and the further fact that no punishment whatever has been meted out in over 90 per cent of the cases, it is only too obvious that lynching is a crime in a class by itself.

Of course, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill may be unconstitutional. There is a substantial body of eminent legal opinion on both sides of this question, and no one can say what the final ruling of the United States supreme court will be.

South, however, must as well prepare for the enactment of a federal anti-lynching bill in the next several months. If there is a special session in November, passage may come at that time, or if not, the measure should be on the statute books by spring. President Roosevelt is said to favor it, and its advocates have far more than enough votes to win, when the ballots are counted.

Such is the situation, and pragmatic Southerners should face it. Will they really mind this federal "interference" as much as some of them seem to think they will? I doubt it.

Albany Decatur, Ala Daily
October 30, 1937

Anti-Lynching Bill

Since none of the Alabama senatorial candidates seem perturbed about the probable passage of a federal anti-lynching bill (at least not to the extent that they publicly state their purpose to filibuster against it until its backers yield), we commend to them for their earnest consideration the following discussion of the bill in an editorial published in the Lynchburg, Va., News, which is published by Senator Carter Glass and Sons:

"When the congress adjourned in August there remained on the program several measures advocated by the president, including one which, while not on the 'must' list, had received his approval. This was the so-called anti-lynching bill and it held preferred place on the calendar. It will be one of the first measures to be considered when the special session is convened and the general impression seems to be that it will be passed by both houses and, of course, signed by the president.

"There are several reasons for belief that passage is virtually certain, several things that make its passage virtually certain. They are:

"1—There are votes in it. The negro has been emigrating into the northern and middle western sections of the country for some time. He is a power in the politics of those sections. His vote is angled for by all candidates for office. In some sections united opposition of the negro vote is decisive; no candidate can be elected under that circumstance. It has been true for some time but there has been a difference. Until recently the negro vote was solidly republican and where it was large democratic candidates had little chance. Knowing that the negro vote was unattainable, or unexpected, democratic members of the congress have been willing for the most part to go along with the southern members in opposition to "anti-lynching" legislation. However demagogic they might be they couldn't hope to profit much in that direction. They left sponsorship of "anti-lynching" legislation to the republicans. That was their game. Now it is different. The negro vote is divided; the negro is growing more independent. Democrats as well as republicans angle for his support, and a fine bait in sections in which there is an important negro vote is to shout and vote for 'anti-lynching' legislation. So they are shouting and they are going to vote for it—and there are more northern and western democrats than there are southern democrats.

"2—Liberalism has become a fetich. To be considered liberal is de riguer. And, for some strange reason, advocacy of increased federal government powers has come to be a hall mark of this spurious liberalism. Furthermore, humanitarianism and liberalism have become confused and because humanity revolts at lynching anything that is labeled a measure to prevent lynching wins approval. This brings to the measure both the wishful thinkers and the demagogues who hope to profit politically by pretense of liberalism and of humanitarianism.

"3—President Roosevelt supports it. Members of the congress from the South who have never favored anti-lynching legislation because of lack of interest in the welfare of the negro will have any appetite to those who like to think of themselves as modern. The doctrine of 'That the passage of 'anti-lynching' legislation will now vote for such legislation because it has received the approval of the president. The rubber stamp element of the congress will be for it.

"4—Local self-government, from sight of. Anything to obtain demonstrated. Even those who are so horrified at assumption upon the mob has given that central government powers of coercion have never been able to argue convincingly that after paying the price the supposed benefits will be reaped. They can be up-to-date! Anything to obtain results upon civilization and the in-

...ny hope. The states have not prevented lynching, they point out, and so they are willing to try something else.

"The News would be frank about this matter. It doesn't believe that any 'anti-lynching' legislation is likely to be effective. It is confident that any promising, any effectiveness would be unconstitutional and that a constitutional amendment is necessary if there is to be legislation with any real hope of accomplishment. But, even were there great hope of accomplishment and even if such legislation were held constitutional, The News would be opposed to it. It is opposed to it because it does not believe that the promised good, even if possible of attainment by the proposed means, would be worth the price. To be brutally frank, it does not believe the saving of a few lives and the imposition of the outward form of civilization upon groups of uncivilized men is sufficient inducement for action that will bring the end of local and state government no near to annihilation that annihilation itself will be only a matter of years. If murder by a mob can bring federal authorities and federal police swarming into a state, willy-nilly, why not murder by an individual? Why not supersede local police and local courts with federal police and federal courts whenever there are votes in it? If neglect by the states of duties is to bring action by the central government, whether the privileges of people in other states are or are not affected, what is to be the end when there are votes in it? And whence does the federal government derive the power to deprive a state of its rights because it has neglected to perform its duties? To admit that there is a power to correct and to save the states from themselves is to deny to the states any rights the central government may wish to deny them. It is to re-write the constitution so as to eliminate the provision reserving to the states the rights not granted the central government and make that provision read: 'The powers not delegated to the states by the constitution, nor prohibited by it, to the United States, are reserved to the United States.'

"And that would mean the end of the federal government and the substitution of a central government without constitutional restrictions worthy the name upon its powers. There are those who desire such a government, but those who do not thirst after a spurious liberalism, who believe the essence of true liberalism is opposition to coercive government, must look upon all legislation threatening its establishment with apprehension, no matter what rosy promises of immediate good are held out."

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
October 29, 1937

The Vicious Anti-Lynch Law

Passage of a vicious anti-lynch law by the senate at the approaching session of congress would be a stinging affront to the south and would place Dixie in the position of not being capable of self-government.

Such a measure has been passed by the house and has been made the first order of business for the special session of congress to be convened next month, and observers believe the senate will enact the legislation.

Attempts were made in the last session to push the bill through the senate, after it had been passed by the house, but it was beaten down by southern opposition, yet the outlook for defeating it again is not as bright as it was last year.

Representative Henry B. Steagall, of the Third Alabama district, who, like all other southerners, is opposed to lynching, looks upon the measure as being a vicious one and a direct stab at the south.

Others who have studied the bill regard it in the same manner and realize that it will take away from the states the right to prosecute criminal cases originating within their boundaries, giving the federal government authority to step in and take handling of the cases out of the hands of southern court officials.

This is contrary to state's rights and denying of the right of the states to govern themselves and will have the effect of saying southern courts are ineffective and unfair—that justice can be done only when the hand of the federal government moves the wand.

The bill is discriminatory on its face and reveals that it is directed primarily at the south where there have been mob slayings, just as there have been in other sections. But other sections are not levelled out. It is the south that has been pointed to accusingly, and it is southern justice the authors of the bill are challenging.

We are opposed to mob slayings and of individuals taking the law in their own hands. Lynchings have been discouraged and minimized in the south in recent years, but we cannot say as much for the mob and gang killings in other sections.

This newspaper has always been opposed to mob demonstrations of any kind and pleads for the prosecution of all implicated in such outrages, yet it beleives prosecution should come through the normal process of the state courts without federal interference or intimidation.

Justice can be done in the state courts of the south the same as in federal courts.

LYNCH LAW OF NO ADVANTAGE SAYS MITCHELL

Lambastes Newspapers As Usual In New York Church Address

NEW YORK, Dec. 3 — "There is no real advantage in the anti-lynching bill. It will mean absolutely nothing to the Negro's defense against lynching," Congressman Mitchell told a crowd of 200 at Metropolitan Baptist church in Harlem, Sunday afternoon.

"Organizations like the one I chanced to drop in on, composed of students of colleges of the south, discussing problems of race relations, can and will do more to stop lynching than all the anti-lynching bills you can get over," Mr. Mitchell said further.

"There is a law against stealing in this country; a law against gambling; a law against holdups and highway robbery in this country, but have they stopped? If the Negro would stop and consider his own faults more and think less about those of the other fellow he would get much more done, and solve more problems of interest," were among the things the Chicago congressman told his listeners.

In Own Defense

Mr. Mitchell's speech, some two hours long, beamed with interest at intervals though he appeared to be defending his own cause most of the way. Time after time he took time out from his subject to lambast the press for its attitude toward him and on one occasion, while not naming the organization (interpreted by many to have been the N. A. A. C. P.) he scored one particular body as being hostile to his every move. "They fight to put over a number of things themselves, but oppose everything I do," the congressman said.

The congressman took as his subject discussion of bills before the House and Senate, adhering to the Rev. Abner Brown's request that he have something to say on the anti-lynching bill. But he did not tarry long on this subject. He did however, say the President had assured him, off the record of course, that in the event of the bill's passage he would sign it readily.

"Be it constitutional or not, it represents a cause that can do no harm," Mr. Mitchell quoted the President as saying. The congressman also said he had received sufficient indication from members of the Senate, to believe that body would follow in the footsteps of the House and pass the bill.

Talks On Others

In addition to the anti-lynching bill, Mr. Mitchell spent considerable time on other bills including the one he claims to have been responsible for killing, the "Southern" bill.

This one, introduced by the late Senator Robinson of Arkansas was the case of the white soldier who killed the Race man in France during an argument over the attentions of a French girl. The bill, according to Mr. Mitchell, would restore the slayer's citizenship because of his release from prison on parole.

The congressman also told of the suit he has against the Rock Island railroad for discrimination in the south, and his fight for proper accommodations for members of the Race. He did not ask for or suggest the abandonment of jim-crow cars. Instead he pleaded for the same accommodations for both races. Nor did he at anytime in his speech come out either for or against the anti-lynch bill. His speech dealth with assuring the audience that it will in all probability be passed.

Another subject dealt with at length by the congressman was that of appointments to West Point and Annapolis. He said he does not believe in jim-crow, therefore would name boys of both races just as he has done in the past. He also told of his fight to get some recognition for Mat Henson, sole survivor of ...ad Peary expedition to the North Pole.

Here he paused to give credit to one New York editor who had written several letters to him asking that something be done. However, at the same time, the congressman lambasted one of his colleagues, the congressman from New York as being insincere toward the Race and of taking him (Mitchell) to task for stepping in on the New York territory in the Henson case.

In his attack on the press, Mr. Mitchell stated emphatically that he saw no reason why he should have to of necessity tie up with the papers in order to get along in Congress.

"I am one Race leader who sees no reason to adhere to the wishes of others to get along in this world," the congressman said.

Mr. Mitchell made no reference at all to the case of Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black, though many thought he would.

LYNCHINGS GRADUALLY DECREASE

From the Savannah Morning News.

In a senate speech opposing the anti-lynching bill, U. S. Senator Dixie Graves of Alabama remarked that state law enforcement and public opinion combined had reduced acts of mob violence by two-thirds in the last ten years and in another five years would end them altogether. It is to be earnestly hoped that her prediction may be fulfilled, but at the present rate of progress an extension of time for final accomplishment may be necessary. Her clue is at least a hopeful one.

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Columbia, S. C. Record
August 7, 1937

No Longer in the Saddle.

The Southern senators—South Carolina's Smith and Byrnes among them—who saw themselves defeated in their efforts to prevent the passage of the wages and hours bill will learn from the experience that the South no longer sits in the Democratic party saddle.

And when the federal anti-lynching bill comes to a vote its Southern opponents will find themselves in much the same position and may expect to see the bill go through with Democratic support

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
August 13, 1937

UNFAIR TO THE SOUTH

Senator Borah struck the nail on the head when he declared that the antilynching bill involved a plain violation of the reserved rights of the States.

The measure would define as felons any officers who failed to protect their prisoners from lynch mobs or who failed to prosecute lynchers. Abductions in labor violence or gangster forays would not be considered within the law's provisions.

The Idaho Senator told the Senate that the measure would make the Federal Government the sole judge of the performance of duty by every state officer. He asserted that the bill would jeopardize the nation's dual system of government and condemned some of the provisions as perfectly outrageous. He declared:

"If you can go into a state and take charge of an individual or group of individuals who have committed a crime, and bring them under the Federal Government's jurisdiction, the last vestage of local government will have disappeared."

The sentiment of the South is against lynching and the opposition to it is steadily increasing, but the Southern States maintain that it is they and not the Federal Government who should have jurisdiction of the crime. The interference of the National Government would inevitably create irritants that would make the situation worse rather than better.

Washington seems to have had for many years a desire to meddle in the affairs of the Southern States. The National Government apparently does not realize that local self-government is not a dead principle in the States below the Ohio. A mercenary or misguided spirit is responsible for the surrender by these States of many of their obligations and responsibilities in matters financial to the Federal Government, but the process of surrender has not gone to the point where the South would accept, without immediate and vigorous protest, an effort by federal authority to impose its will upon the officers of the law in the Southern States.

SENATE IS WARNED ON TENNESSEE LYNCHING

Washington, Aug. 20.- Citing the lynching of Albert Gooden at Covington, Tenn., on August 17 as a warning to the Senate that action on a federal anti-lynching bill must be taken speedily in the new session, Senators Robert F. Wagner, of New York, and Frederick Van Nuys, of Indiana, placed descriptions of the Tennessee lynching in the Congressional Record.

Press Release N.A.A.C.P. 8-20-37

The action of the sponsors of the anti-lynching bill in the Senate was taken at the suggestion of the N.A.A.C.P. In the last desparate efforts to secure action on a federal anti-lynching bill at this session of Congress, Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, repeatedly recalled to friends of the bill in the Senate that if action were postponed, the Senate would be in a measure responsible for lynchings which take place in the interim.

New York Times

The N.A.A.C.P. also has sent a letter to Governor Gordon H. Browning, of Tennessee, urging him to use every weapon of the state to assist local authorities in speeding the apprehension and punishment of the lynchers of Gooden. The N.A.A.C.P. letter cited the fact that nothing has been done by the states of Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida following lynchings in those states this year. In Alabama, the state attorney general asserted before the state supreme court that Wesley Johnson, lynched on February 2, was innocent of any crime and had been arrested by the sheriff just to satisfy local clamor for an arrest. It was admitted that the sheriff knew that Johnson was innocent at the time of the arrest. Despite the fact that an innocent man was lynched, Alabama has done nothing.

As it was to have been expected, Mississippi has made no move whatsoever even to investigate the brutal blow-torch double lynching at Duck Hill, April 13. Despite pronouncements of Governor Fred P. Cone, of Florida, the authorities of that state have done nothing to apprehend the lynchers of two boys in Tallahassee on July 20.

The N.A.A.C.P. asserts that the record of the local and state authorities in the six lynchings of 1937 demonstrate that a federal law is necessary if any progress is to be made toward wiping out mob violence.

Roanoke, Va., World News
August 16, 1937

The Anti-Lynching Bill

There are many thoughtful Southerners who are convinced of the futility of striving to eliminate lynching by appeals to reason. These, who have been forced to the conclusion that the problem is one for the Federal Government to handle. Even so, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, now before Congress, has little to commend it to them.

Liberal Southerners, who look upon lynching as a challenge to law and order, are interested in Federal intervention only because they believe mob rule can be more effectively wiped out thus. They can hardly be expected to grow enthusiastic, however, over a measure whose primary feature seems to be vindictiveness toward local authorities who fail to enforce the law or to prosecute after a lynching.

It is absurd, of course, to pretend that local authorities are unable to recognize any member of a lynching mob. The truth is that mobs are often composed of influential men who control votes and who could throw powerful political forces against officers who might arrest them. This being true, few officers have the courage to do their sworn duty when they know that they will suffer ultimately as a result. Even if arrests are made, the defendants are tried by a jury composed of residents of their own community, who are quite likely to share the prejudices which led to the lynching. Under such conditions, a verdict of not guilty would be the rule rather than the exception. Therefore, lynching continues.

In contrast with this state of affairs, a Federal officer owes his job to no small group of people in one county or town. If he is sent into a community to investigate a violation of the law, he can proceed in the face of a hostile local sentiment, buoyed by the knowledge that he is supported by public opinion generally. Then, when defendants are brought to trial, the jury is composed of men selected from points throughout a wide area who naturally do not feel the prejudices common to men living in one community. The result should be greater fairness and impartiality.

It is because of this that many Southerners had resigned themselves to the idea that a Federal anti-lynching law was needed. They hoped that Congress would pass a law, overlapping the authority of the various States, just as in the matter of illicit distilling. Then it would remain for Federal authorities to enter the picture whenever they felt that they could get at the bottom of a mob attack more effectively than local officers. Proponents of such a measure believed that it would not only make it easier to bring mob members to the bar of justice but that it would tend to prevent lynchings by creating in the minds of potential mob members the fear of Federal prosecution.

Instead, a measure is offered which leaves it to local authorities to enforce the law. And if they do not, the bill seems to say, between the lines, "you'll have the fear of God thrown into you." Accordingly, the law enforcement officers would be prosecuted themselves for failure to carry out their manifest duties.

No matter how much contempt we may have for a law enforcement officer who condones violence rather than jeapardize his own position, it hardly seems reasonable to hope that the solution of the problem lies in prosecuting him. Everyone may be sure in his own mind that an officer knew certain members of a mob, but to prove in court that he recognized them might not be as easy as it seems in academic discussion. It would be easy in numerous instances to get factual evidence that certain men were members of a mob, but to prove what transpired within the mind of an officer might be a trifle more difficult.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill is akin to some of the reconstruction legislation foisted on the South after the close of the War of Secession. It approaches a problem peculiarly Southern with more vindictiveness than understanding. It is gratifying to know that by agreement of the leaders it will be laid aside for the remainder of the present session, with a promise to its sponsors, however, that it will be given a preferred status on the calendar when Congress meets again in January.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
August 14, 1937

Lynching 'Compromise'

THERE being no such thing as a collective sense of humor, the Senate did not roll in its aisles with mirth over its action on the lynching bill. The Senate could pass or defeat such a bill in five minutes, but instead sent it on to the next session, where it is given preferred status. This means, we are told, that it then will be enacted, since 70 votes are claimed in its support. In other words, the lawmakers reached a compromise on a measure which, according to its proponents, is calculated to prevent the illegal taking of human life. How one can compromise on murder is a problem not without its grim suggestion of the ridiculous.

The bill has been sponsored by a group that apparently knows nothing about conditions which lead to lynching in the South, and which seems to have made little study of the national constitution. Senator Connally of Texas, and the more astute Borah of Idaho, are among those pointing out that our basic law would prohibit the federal government from going into a state and establishing a civil liability for damages between citizens; but logic never has governed such matters.

The Senate chamber, we believe, is air conditioned, so whatever the outdoor temperature of Washington, there seems no reason for the solons to suffer or lose their judicial balance while considering vital legislation, as this happens to be in a literal sense. Most intelligent persons in the South believe the lynching bill to be a deliberate incentive, rather than a preventive step, and instead have urged more equable and quicker enforcement of law, and a sentiment which would shame and retire to private life the law enforcement officer who is "overpowered" and gives up his prisoner to a mob. Creation of such sentiment is a matter of education and persistent effort, but it is not fostered by an agreement of the elder statesmen to let lynching go unconfined for six months and then jam on brakes which many experts say will not work.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
November 15, 1937

Legislation On Lynching

(By David H. Bradshaw, associate professor of history and government at Kentucky State Industrial College, at Frankfort, in a letter to the Editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal.)

With the approach of November 15 all eyes in the country are turning in the direction of Washington and to the special session of Congress called by the President in the exercise of his constitutional authority. Among the subjects on the agenda for legislative consideration is one concerned with the enactment of legislation to prevent lynching. Aside from questions of constitutionality, it is extremely doubtful that any law to prevent lynching, whether federal or state can be enforced at the present time. Admirable as any attempt to legislate lynching out of existence may be, all efforts at legal eradication of the evil must wait for success upon the creation of a public opinion opposed to lynching in the localities where it is now practiced.

No legislature has ever yet been able to legislate goodness into people. The problem is more fundamental than what at first is apparent to the eye. In so far as the enactment of anti-lynching legislation may serve to focus attention upon the evils of lynching and thereby help create a feeling against it such legislation may be beneficial. But only to that degree. The solution to the problem, it seems to me, is to be found, not in the field of legislation, but in that of education.

If this is correct, then its success will of necessity involve the passage of a period of years. Education is at best a slow and tedious process. Especially is this true where it must do its work in an informal way. To accomplish the desired end the schools, the press, pulpit, radio and all other agencies that help formulate public opinion must co-operate. When public opinion has been educated to see the evils attendant upon all of society as a result of lynching, then it will be that laws to eradicate the practice may become really effective.

Certainly I have no wish to depreciate the attempts to stop lynching; it merely appears that the efforts being made in this regard are pointed in the wrong direction. The enactment of such legislation may create a tendency in the right direction, but only in so far as it does will the legislation be of any value. For as difficult as it has been to get legislation of this nature enacted, the enforcement of any such laws would be even more difficult in the present state of public opinion. The man in the street does not realize that when some person is lynched not only does that person lose his life as a result of the taking of the law into the hands of lawless individuals, but what is more, the law itself is in a sense lynched. So long as these practices are tolerated, respect for law and order must remain on a low level. Enactment of law does not make for respect for law; only through education that is skillfully applied can we bring about a desire on the part of all people for fair play to all persons regardless of race or class.

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ANTI-LYNCHING BILL WRITTEN BY PATRICK FOR NEXT SESSION

Birmingham Congressman Answers Opposition To His Stand On Similar Measure; He Wants Mob Rule To Become A Federal Offense

Rep. Luther Patrick revealed today he is at work preparing an anti-lynching bill which he hopes will be acceptable to the South.

Returned from Washington, Mr. Patrick said his proposed bill "would sic the G-men on lynchers."

"Lynching is now a state offense," Mr. Patrick said. "My bill would make it a Federal offense."

The Ninth District representative, who was roundly criticised in a number of quarters for opposition to the Gavagan anti-lynching bill which was defeated at the last session of Congress, said he would favor any reasonable anti-lynching measure.

Wouldn't Penalize County

"In contrast to the Gavagan measure, my bill would not make the county bear the expense of a court trial in which the lynching was committed unless the citizenship of that county took part," Mr. Patrick said. "I would not penalize an innocent county."

Mr. Patrick said one of the features of the Gavagan bill to which he objected was that it was aimed at the sheriff.

"That bill is an insult to every sheriff in the South," he said. "It subjects him to five years' imprisonment for having his prisoner taken away. Had the bill passed, sheriffs would have to run away from prisoners instead of attempting to hold them in custody."

Expects Special Session

Mr. Patrick said he favored a "reasonable wages and hours bill," but added: "How can you effect a good wages and hours bill under which Southern industry can beat up without first abolishing the unfair freight rates now burdening the South?"

Mr. Patrick believes President Roosevelt will call Congress into session in October or November.

He expects to remain in Birmingham until that time. At present Mr. Patrick is staying at the Redmon Hotel with Mrs. Patrick, who has been ill several weeks. She was reported improved today. She is being treated by Dr. J. G. Vance, who managed Mr. Patrick's congressional campaign.

His Record

Mr. Patrick is a member of three committees in the National House of Representatives—executive expenditures, mines and mining, public buildings and grounds.

Mr. Patrick had an active part in obtaining a grant from the Works Progress Administration for the $225,000 out-patient clinic now being built at Hillman Hospital.

Today he disclosed he is doing his utmost to assist in getting a $2,500,000 allocation from the Public Works Administration for a white model housing project at McLendon Park.

Danville, Va., Register
August 25, 1937

THE SOUTH SAYS 'YES'

Just how accurately the American Institute of Public Opinion interprets the views of the American people we do not profess to know. The organization established by Dr. George Gallup did predict the outcome of the 1936 election with remarkable precision and thereby gained an important victory for its method of "sampling" public opinion over the older method of taking straw votes. Yet the "sampling" method is too new, has been checked too infrequently to be endorsed without qualification.

It is interesting to note, however, that the first check of Southern sentiment on an anti-lynching law, made by the Institute of Public Opinion, shows that the people of the South are almost two to one in favor of a law along the lines of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill which would make lynching a Federal crime. The Institute poll shows that Southern voters averaged 65 per cent in favor of an anti-lynching law compared with an average of 70 per cent in favor of the law throughout the nation. In other words, the Southern people favor an anti-lynching law in the same proportion that the people of the nation favored President Roosevelt in the last election when they gave him a record-breaking majority which every newspaper labelled a "landslide."

These figures are astounding in view of the fact that Southern Senators and Representatives have consistently carried their opposition to any anti-lynching law to the point of filibustering against measures which otherwise would be passed by a comfortable majority. Though some of these congressmen say they oppose an anti-lynching law because it constitutes an unwarranted invasion by the Federal Government into State prerogatives, most of them will admit privately that they do not object personally to the plan to curb lynching but that they feel their constituents are opposed to the proposed bill.

While they are home, therefore, these Southern Senators and representatives would do well to check up again on the views of their constituents. For all these years they have acted on the assumption that the people of the South opposed an anti-lynching bill, yet the only check so far made has showed that the people of the South are overwhelmingly in favor of such a bill. Moreover, a large number of Southern newspapers which had opposed such a bill have swung over to the other side during the past few years, indicating that public sentiment too has been changing.

Since, therefore, the Wagner-Van Nuys bill has already been made a special order on the Senate calendar when it reconvenes, those Southern senators who will be called upon to vote on the measure in the near future should dismiss their preconceived notions and really sound out sentiment in their communities. They should go into their churches, into their civic clubs, into their mills and factories, out on their farms, on their streets and ask their constituents, the people of the South, how they feel about the proposed anti-lynching bill.

If they will, we are confident that the Institute poll on this particular measure will prove accurate. The great majority of the Southern people are heartily ashamed of the dark blot on the name of the South; the great majority of the Southern people believe in law and order; the great majority of the Southern people want every man, white or black, given a fair trial; the great majority of the Southern people believe in justice.

Especially does The Register invite Senator Glass and Senator Byrd to come to Danville before Congress reconvenes and ask our people if they do not want a law passed to stamp out the barbarous practice of lynching. If we have any understanding of the hearts and minds of our neighbors, they will give the Senators of Virginia a thunderous "Yes."

PITTSBURG KS. HEADLIGHT
AUG. 16, 1937 A31

Among the lynchings of the year, when Tuskegee Institute makes up its records for the last half of 1937, must be listed the lynching of the anti-lynching bill in the United States Senate.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
August 23, 1937

Up to Local Authority

SOUTHERN congressmen are fully warranted in the determined opposition to a federal lynching law that would invade the states' right to deal out criminal justice among their own people. We have more than enough of federal interference with local government and sad are the remembrances of prohibition agents.

But the sporadic demand in Washington for a lynching law will not die so long as the sponsors of reform by federal statute are supplied with ammunition similar to that provided by the outcome of that lynching near Covington, Tenn. The fact that this was the first lynching in Tipton county for at least 70 years, of course, is no admissible defense for the community in the court of public opinion. A negro accused of the murder of the town marshal of Mason, Tenn., was taken from the sheriff, not by a mob, lashed to fury, but by six masked individuals, and lynched with a plow line. After a month in which it seems no special energy was devoted to investigation, the grand jury interrogated several witnesses who said they heard shots but saw nothing of importance. The sheriff himself was not called and the grand jury recessed without reporting any finding.

Agitation for a federal statute will be downed only when lynchings, which certainly are not confined to the South, are checked. Intelligent and resolute effort by local and state officers to apprehend the lynchers, followed by energetic prosecution after they are caught, is the formula that will do just that. Eventually lynchings will be done with except in extreme cases, and it is better that this be brought about without the intervention of the federal sleuth.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
September 8, 1937

NATIONAL LYNCHING LAWS

At the next session of congress there will be some old "unfinished business" brought up. It will be an anti-lynching bill. There are better prospects for the passage of some national lynching law now than there has ever been before. The democrats in the northern and central states have been profiting by the Negro vote. The republicans have always been making bids for this vote and when they run out of bait they take up again the anti-lynching law. If the democrats in the north and west join with the republicans, as seems possible, they will force the bill through congress.

Leading southern democrats know the situation. We presume they have a plan of action. Something besides obstruction will have to be resorted to. Tactics on the floor or in committee can be resorted to to hold back legislation at the close of a session, but the majority cannot be restrained through an entire session.

One of two things must be done.

The first is for state governments in the South to take a strong stand against lynchings and set up legislative machinery for punishing lynchers.

The second is for southern representatives and senators to seek to eliminate from the bill features that would be particularly objectionable to the states.

There is strong opposition to lynching in the South. There are many who would not consider it objectionable to make lynching a federal offense, thereby transferring the lynching cases to the federal courts. If there was federal jurisdiction, it would make quite a difference. It would work no hardship and bring no humiliation to the innocent and those who stand for law and order. Our lynching days should be over. If the states are unable to cope with the situation then it may be well to turn the problem over to Uncle Sam.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
November 19, 1937

THE PROBLEM REMAINS.

The filibuster on the antilynching bill which is the curtain raiser to consideration of the President's program in the Senate presents at their worst the Southern Senators who are participating in it. For one thing, it is hard to imagine a lower level of debate than Senator Connally, of Texas, reaches when he asserts that sponsors of the anti-lynching measure are appealing to the Negro population for votes when they believe the Supreme Court of the United States will declare such legislation unconstitutional.

A considerable element in Congress believes that a Federal anti-lynching law would result in an invasion of the police power reserved to the States. It is true, as Senator Connally asserts, that Mr. Justice Hugo L. Black revealed as a Senator his belief that such an Act would be unconstitutional. But the sentiment in Congress for a Federal law against lynching is not based on an appeal to Negro voters but on an appeal from mob violence which is by no means confined within the Southern States. The pending bill is not an ideal measure. It is debatable whether its provisions, even if upheld by the Supreme Court, would enable the Federal Government to stamp out lynching. But it is a mistake to imagine that demand for such a law reflects merely the influence of Northern and Eastern politicians.

Senator Connally concedes that the pending bill will pass the Senate. A poll of the membership in the last session revealed that approximately seventy votes will be cast for the measure. When it is put on the statute books, the problem confronting this section will be how to create a sentiment for local enforcement of law that is strong enough to make Federal intervention unnecessary. The State of Virginia has had for ten years a law embodying some of the provisions of the proposed Federal statute. That law has been successful; there has not been a lynching in Virginia since the law was enacted. The State of Virginia will not be "invaded" by the Federal Government for the reason that Virginia takes care of its own problem. Whether the Supreme Court holds a Federal antilynching law valid or invalid is incidental to a problem which can be solved in the South whenever the Southern people demand that lynching be stopped.

G.A.R. ASKED TO ENDORSE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Press Service of the N.A.A.C.P.

New York, 9-10-37 Sept. 10.—The Grand Army of the Republic, in convention this week in Madison, Wisconsin, was requested by the N.A.A.C.P. to pass a resolution endorsing the passage of a federal anti-lynching law. The N.A.A.C.P. request cited the lynching toll of more than 5,000 persons in the last fifty years and stated "the great cause of human freedom for which you fought would be advanced by the adoption of this resolution and this would be a continuation of the highest principles of Americanism to which the Grand Army of the Republic has always adhered."

Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
September 19, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Senator Pat Harrison predicts that the anti-lynching bill will pass at the January session of the Congress.

He will vigorously oppose it, as will practically all Southern Congressmen.

The bill is a vicious and unwarranted invasion of State's rights.

It permits the Federal government to come into a community and exercise rights hithereto unheard of in our system of government.

It will impose heavy penalty burdens, in money, on the taxpayers of a county through the provision of the bill which requires a county to pay the family of a lynch victim thousands of dollars in indemnity.

No right thinking people condone lynchings.

Neither do right thinking people condone the wholesale slaughter of racketeers in the great cities of the North.

Therefore, the existence of lynching and other crimes doesn't warrant Federal invasion of sacred State's rights.

The anti-lynching bill will pass as purely a political measure—next year being election year for Congressmen.

It is bait for the negro vote in the North and for the radical element's support.

Congress may pass the anti-lynching bill, bu its constitutionality will be challenged at th first opportunity.

And it will be invalidated.

Lynchings—1937
Legislation Relating to.

5745

Columbia, S. C. Record
June 23, 1937

Anti-Lynching Experiment.

The anti-lynching bill—in the Wagner-Van Nuys version—has now been started on its way through the senate with the approval of the senate judiciary committee, 13 to 8.

A majority of the senate favors its passage and the bill's enactment can be prevented only by filibuster as other federal anti-lynching bills in other years were defeated. But the chances of successful resort to filibuster by the Southern minority is less this year than usual. The end of the session is too far off and too many bills in which the Southern senators are interested remain to be passed upon. Senator Connolly, of Texas, one of the three committee members who voted against the bill, doesn't even believe that the filibuster will be attempted.

The measure's enactment, in one form or another, seems therefore practically certain. The Southern senators should however see to it that the work of the judiciary committee in defining lynching so as to limit the measure's application to only those manifestations of mob violence that follow the arrest of some accused person, specifically excluding lynchings by gangsters, racketeers or mob violence in connection with labor disputes, is undone.

There is no reason to be half-hearted about the attempt to use the federal authority to curb the mob, no excuse for leaving these loopholes. The act may not abolish lynching—federal prohibition didn't abolish drinking—but at least the endeavor, another experiment noble in motive, should not be handicapped from the beginning.

Outside the high cost of living, there isn't much to the report that the Scotch are dying out as a race.

Baton Rouge, La., Times
June 22, 1937

AIMED AT THE SOUTH

Not only is the administration in Washington passing measures inimicable to the ecenomic interests of the South, but there is now a strong possibility that the anti-lynching bill, which South haters in the North have tried to put through for half a century, is actually to be passed by the present congress.

No one in the South defends lynching. We are as much against lawless mob rule in Dixie as we are against the mob activities of the C. I. O. communists in northern cities, but lynchings sometimes happen in the South, and when they do, involving generally assaults upon white women no federal law is going to check but rather add to the community feeling. Under the Wagner act a peace officer who does not defend a prisoner from a mob is subject to both fine and imprisonment, and a trial before a federal court, while the parish in which the lynching occurs can be sued by the relatives of the mob victim for civil damages, also in the federal courts.

Aimed entirely at the South—for there is nothing in the act that requires peace officers to maintain law and order in strike ridden territory—this measure already passed the Democratic house, yesterday came out of the Democratic senate judiciary committee with a favorable report, and now goes to the senate for final passage by a Democratic senate.

The late Senator Lodge and his Force bill came a few years too early. The Old South hater should have waited for an almost solid Democratic congress before launching his attack on the South.

Calhoun, Ga., Times
June 24, 1937

LYNCHING OF LAW ALSO BAD

It is interesting to observe that there are a score or more of "anti-lynch" bills hovering about the congress, all designed to create "greater respect for law in the South."

Meanwhile it is equally interesting to observe that not a single bill has been offered looking to greater respect for the law in those large portions of the nation outside of the South.

Not a single representative has arisen to suggest some means of ending the persistent lynching of the law in such states as Michigan, Ohio and Illinois, where the law has been lynched to such a degree that few longer pay attention either to the law or the courts that seek to enforce it.

The South is making vigorous efforts to enforce the laws against lynching and is succeeding much better than are the officials in those states where contempt for the law has become commonplace, and the congress could proceed with much more fidelity toward the institution of law were it to look upon the matter as a national rather than a sectional problem.

Lynchings of individuals are horrible and are frowned upon with as much severity in the South as in the North, but the fact should be borne in mind that the worst lynching of all is when the law itself is lynched, as has become a daily occurence in the North.—Rome News-Tribune

Gadsden, Ala., Times
June 27, 1937

WHY AN ANTI-LYNCHING LAW?

OUT of Washington comes conflicting and disturbing news about the proposed federal anti-lynching law. One day a journalistic authority informs us that such a bill is dead for this session, while the next day the Senate Judiciary Committee gives overwhelming approval to the Wagner-Van Nuys measure and one of its opponents, Senator Connally of Texas, predicts that it will pass.

In view of these things, it is foolhardy to be overconfident about the defeat of the anti-lynching bill, but it is also too early to lose hope. We urge only one thing, that the members of the Senate from the South remain vigilant.

For decades, Northern fanatics, pandering to negro voters in their own states, have tried to ram a federal anti-lynching law down our throats but the Senators of the South, through a threat of filibuster, have always prevented it and they can do the same thing this year if they choose. The power which our Southern men wield in the Senate, with its unlimited debate, can be illustrated also by the "force bill" days.

That the Wagner-Van Nuys bill is a sectional measure, aimed directly at the South in spite of the fact that lynchings in this region have been reduced 5,000 per cent in the last 50 years, is borne out by the fact that its provisions do not extend to violence by gangsters or racketeers and that it has no effect upon labor controversies.

Just why, we do not know. We do not condone lynch mobs, but we think it no less worse for a lynch mob to hang a rapist than it is for a gang to machine-gun a rival, or than it is for labor mobs to beat the brains out of a victim with clubs.

Those in the lynch mobs are murderers. The gangster who kills is a murderer. The man in a labor crowd which deals in death is a murderer. They are all murderers, and they should all be treated as murderers—and state courts, if we are not mistaken, usually handle murder cases.

If we must have federal laws to deal with the lyncher, why does not Congress pass federal laws to deal with the gangster killer or the labor killer? There are 10, 20, or 30 times more lives lost each year at the hands of gangsters and labor mobs than at the hands of Southern lynchers. Worse still, we are clamping down on the lynchers tighter each year. The gangster remains bad, and the labor mobster has become frightening in the eyes of all law-abiding citizens.

The South will keep a close watch on its members of the Senate, and it will remember those who lend their aid in the fight against this anti-lynching bill. It will also remember those who, filled with national political ambitions, dodge around the corner when the bill is called [illegible]

June 25, 1937

To Humiliate South?

SPEAKING of the anti-lynching bill and other current matters having a bearing on racial relations, Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina tells Walter Brown, Washington correspondent:

"It seems to be the object of the so-called Democratic party to humiliate the South and the sooner the South knows who her friends are the better it will be."

This comes from an old time Democrat, whose loyalty to the Democratic party of old has never been questioned through decades of notable public service, and it is significant.

Southerners increasingly are asking themselves if they are receiving justice at the hands of the party which has enjoyed their faithful and undivided support.

Albany-Decatur, Ala., Daily
July 5, 1937

Washington Silence

Like the mills of the gods, the legislative hoppers grind slowly, yet day by day a vote is getting closer on the federal anti-lynching bill and a pall of silence continues to hang over Washington.

What would we give for one loud, lusty yowl of complete and utter defiance from some Southern senators, letting the radicals know that they are not going to get away with this trick of ramming that damnable piece of legislation down Southern throats!

The Gadsden Times already has sounded a warning that the people of Dixie are not going to be content with corner dodging on this bill and we thoroughly agree with the view. What we want is action—in a great big way.

If action is not forthcoming in Washington, you may rest assured another sort of action will be forthcoming at the polls!

Poplarville, Miss. Press
July 1, 1937

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill emerged from the Senate judiciary committee this week without the threats of filibus-

ter that have greeted similar proposals in the past. The committee voted, 13 to 3, for the bill.

Indications are that there will be little fight made against the bill this time, since the Winona mob "threw the fat in the fire" just at the most opportune time. However, the passage of the bill, unfortunately, will not stop lynchings in the south if the cause of lynchings continue, but will create quite a bit of trouble that will be ineffective. Of course the bill is unconstitutional, but that it of little consequence any more. We would suggest to the people of the south, if the bill does pass, that hereafter when a case comes up that call for a lynching bee, that we call it a "ganster raid," like they do in the north. Let no newspaper in the south ever again mention "lynching" in its columns, but instead, adopt that much of the Yankee's language; call it "gangster raid." You know that is a much more cultured word, for the ganster usually has much money.—Winston County Journal.

Asheville, N. C., Times
July 2, 1937

The Anti-Lynching Bill

READING the statement of some proponents of the anti-lynching bill—"an increasing majority of Southerners desire an effective federal anti-lynching bill"—many besides Southerners doubtless will wonder over the accuracy of this assertion.

But it seems to be true. Take the poll of last January compiled by the American Institute of Public Opinion, for example.

That ballot showed the nation at large favoring such a law by 70 to 30 per cent. In the South the poll was favorable by 65 to 35 per cent.

That is impressive, even after all allowances are made for errors or for general unreliability of straw polls.

Furthermore, powerful Southern newspaper support for a federal anti-lynching law is in evidence. The Richmond Times-Dispatch, The Danville Register, The Louisville Courier-Journal, The Columbia State, The Birmingham Age-Herald, The Greensboro News, The High Point Enterprise and some other newspapers of the South have surveyed the issue and thrown up their hands in despair over the simultaneous preservation of state rights in this field and of lawful process for all persons charged with crime.

Waiving the question of constitutionality—though such a lawyer as Senator Borah asserts that the bill under consideration is unconstitutional—the advocates of the measure shut their eyes to the gradual and substantial reduction in the number of lynchings. They disregard the fact that a federal law on lynching will be to many a rebuke to state pride engendered by long, persistent and tremendously successful efforts to mobilize public opinion against lynching.

If such a law is enacted, all good citizens of course will give it their ungrudging support. But the chief burden of action will inevitably be shifted from local to federal agencies.

The federal Prohibition law failed of its high purpose, and that even in states where Prohibition sentiment piled up enormous affirmative votes in the regular elections.

Shreveport, La., Times
November 18, 1937

THE SENATE FILIBUSTER

Opponents of the anti-lynching bill which is now before the senate have launched a filibuster, with the aim of delaying action until a farm bill is ready for consideration. That would postpone a vote on the anti-lynching measure until late in the session.

This newspaper has opposed the anti-lynching bill. Our belief that it is an unwise attempt to expand federal powers in the field of policing is unchanged. But the weakness inherent in the present filibuster must be recognized.

At the last session of congress, the house approved the anti-lynching bill which is now before the senate, and the senate, in August just prior to adjournment, agreed to take up the bill at the next session, as soon as the general farm bill was disposed of.

Thus, the anti-lynching measure stands in second place on the calendar of the senate. And it will continue to hold that position in the regular session which begins in January if the filibuster succeeds in preventing a senate vote at the special session.

So the filibusterers, admittedly advocates of a worthy cause, face the task of blocking a senate vote not just for a month or two, but for a period of six or eight months. Any attempt to do that would mean serious disruption of legislative activity in both houses of congress.

The difficulties are apparent. At a time when congress should be functioning efficiently, the filibusterers would be placed in the position of setting up a solid blockade. They would be blamed for prolonging the uncertainties of the congressional session.

Such a position could not be held for six or eight months. The only reason that past filibusters to block similar legislation succeeded is that the legislation did not come up for a vote until late in a session.

The situation should be understood by all who oppose a federal anti-lynch law. If the filibuster fails or is abandoned no blame should be placed on any southern senators. They have been maneuvered into a tight corner from which there is no path of escape.

Lynchings-1937
N.A.A.C.P.— Reports on.

5746

Ancient American History?

-- 1935 Version --

Because of the lynch record in America the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asks: "CAN THE STATES STOP LYNCHINGS?"

Opponents of federal anti-lynching legislation have constantly advanced the argument that lynching should be handled by the states, that the states could and would stop lynching.

During the 1935 filibuster in the United States Senate this argument was made by several senators:

"I am not in favor of the passage of that (Costigan-Wagner) bill, believing that the subject matter can be best handled by the states."—Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas in a letter to the Crisis, December 1, 1934.

Note: Three lynchings in Texas since this statement —no serious effort by local authorities of the state to have lynchers punished.

There is no doubt that the same argument will be used in the present session of Congress as expressed in the following statement:

"I am opposed to the anti-lynching bill, as I believe it to be an effort to bring within the jurisdiction of the federal government a matter which properly belongs to the various states . . . "—Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas letter to N.A.A.C.P., November 29, 1936.

5,105 persons, men and women, white and black, have been lynched in America since 1882. No punishment whatsoever was inflicted on the lynchers in 99.2 per cent of the lynchings; and in the 8-10 of one per cent of the lynchings where punishment of the lynchers followed, the punishment was slight. The two exceptions during 1935-6 are the two Black Legion lynchings of Silas Coleman and Charles A. Poole where the lynchers were given life. Michigan had not had a lynching prior to these Black Legion lynchings in 33 years.

The purpose of the following is to demonstrate the fallacy of the argument that states can or will prevent lynchings. The record of lynchings in 1935 is shown with the record of the local authorities and states in efforts to punish the lynchers. This data was issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

January 11: Franklinton, La.—A small group of men forced its way into the Washington Parish jail, shot and beat Jerome Wilson to death, dumped his body alongside a lonely road three miles from town and dispersed. Wilson had been convicted the previous August of slaying Deputy Sheriff D. C. Wood in a gun fight on the Wilson place near Franklinton, but the Louisiana Supreme Court had just reversed the conviction and granted him a new trial — which the lynching thwarted.

State Action: Sheriff Block of Franklinton declared that the only clue to the lynchers was a large hammer, and promised to investigate. No one has been arrested.

February 24: Maringouin, La.—Anderson Ward was taken from jail by a mob, hanged, and his body riddled with bullets. Ward had been arrested because of a fight with a white man.

State Action: According to rumor, Maringouin officials made an investigation, but as the lynchers were said to be "parties unknown," no one has been arrested.

March 12: Slayden, Miss.—Ab Young was hanged to a tree in a school yard three miles East of Slayden, Miss., by a mob of about fifty men. Young had been sought in connection with the shooting to death of Hardy Mackie, a state highway worker. He was placed on an automobile with a rope around his neck, the other end of the rope being suspended to a tree. One of his captors drove off in the car, throwing him from the top. (Young was seized near Rossville, Tenn., and transported across the state line into Mississippi.—New York Post, March 13.)

State Action: According to the coroner's jury, Young "came to his death by hanging at the hands of parties unknown." The prosecuting attorney stated that, "So far as the proof is concerned, we don't know whether it was a hanging or a suicide." The justice of the peace who was standing nearby him when the mob riddled the dangling body with bullets said, "I'm an officer. But my friends mean more to me than being an officer." No one has been arrected.

March 22: Lawrence County, Miss.—The body of R. J. Tyronne, a prosperous farmer, was found shot to pieces in the woods by his house on the night of March 26, where he had been lynched by a mob of whites about March 22. Tyronne was said to have been too prosperous for his white neighbors.

State Action: None.

March 30: Hernando, Miss.—The body of the Rev. T. A. Allen, of Marks, Miss., was found weighted down by a chain, in Coldwater River. He had been killed in trouble between sharecroppers and plantation owners. In his pockets were found papers concerning sharecroppers' organization work.

State Action: None.

April 7: Letahatchee, Ala. (NAACP Investigation)—Tom Scott, Negro, had a fight with a white man. Scott escaped, but "the white fellow got up the KKK and overtook him and cut him and hung him on a pine three limb. Shot him to death."

State Action: None.

May 20: Selma, Ala. (NAACP Investigation)—Willie Foster, Negro organizer for the International Labor Defense, went to Selma to investigate arrests of members of the sharecroppers' union during the cotton choppers' strike. He was arrested as soon as he arrived in Selma. He was taken out by a gang, killed and secretly buried. His body was found by friends.

State Action: None.

May 25: Detroit, Mich.—Silas Coleman, Negro World War veteran, was shot to death by Dayton Dean, Black Legion "Trigger Man," and members of the Black Legion. The only reason given for the killing was that Dean enticed Coleman to a lake for the purpose of "target practice" because Harvey Davis, a member of the mob, "wanted to see what it felt like to kill a Negro." Judge Van Zile, commenting on the killing of Coleman, told the defendants: "It is hard to understand why you killed this man, who had never done anything to you and whom you did not even know."

State Action: This lynching was brought to light after investigation of the Black Legion brought about by the slaying of Charles A. Poole (white). Five members of the mob, already sentenced to life terms for the lynching of Poole, were convicted of first-degree murder and on December 4, 1936, received life sentences for the killing of Silas Coleman.

June 22: Wiggins, Miss.—R. D. McGee, 25-year-old Negro, was hanged to a tree and his body pierced with bullets for an alleged attack on an 11-year-old white girl. The night before the lynching McGee was taken from his bed by a posse of citizens and secreted in the woods away from officers until the next day, when he was carried before the girl and identified by his clothing. The mob then carried him across the town into a side road, where he is said to have admitted attacking the girl.

State Action: Not even a casual investigation made.

July 11: Greensboro, Ala.—Joe Spinner Johnson, leader of the sharecroppers' union in Perry County, was called from his cotton patch by a small mob, bound hand and foot and beaten. He was placed in the Selma jail. Inmates heard screams that night. Next

NO ARRESTS IN LYNCHINGS DURING 1937

Mississippi Double Killing Was Most Brutal Of Year -38

NEW YORK. — There were eight lynchings during 1937 in the United States and not a single arrest of any suspected lynchers, the N. A. A. C. P. reports here this week.

The most brutal lynching of the year was the double killing of Roosevelt Townes and "Boot Jack" McDaniels by a mob at Duck Hill, Miss., April 13. The two men were tied to trees, stripped, and tortured with blow torches before being killed.

The most tragic lynching of the year was that of Wesley Johnson at Abbeville, Ala., February 1. Attorney General A. A. Carmichael of Alabama stated to the Alabama supreme court on June 5 that investigation had established that Johnson was completely innocent, that the sheriff knew he was innocent when he arrested him but took him into custody in order to satisfy local public opinion.

Even with this knowledge, the sheriff did nothing to prevent Johnson's being lynched.

Florida led the year with three lynchings, followed by Mississippi, two, and Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, one each.

morning Johnson was not in the jail. His body had been dumped in a secret grave near Greensboro, where it was found by his friends.

State Action: None.

July 15: Lowndes County, Miss.—Bert Moore and Dooley Morton, Negro farmers about 26 years old, were taken from a deputy sheriff and hanged about eight miles from Columbus. They were arrested after two alleged attempts to assault a white woman. The Negroes were driven through Columbus to a Negro church eight miles South of the city, where they were hanged.

State Action: None.

July 19: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.—Rubin Stacy, accused of frightening a white woman with a knife, was snatched from six deputies near Fort Lauderdale and hanged to a tree within sight of the home of the woman, his body being riddled with bullets. Subsequent investigation revealed that Stacy, a homeless tenant farmer, had gone to the house to ask for food; the woman became frightened and screamed when she saw Stacy's face.

State Action: Despite several investigations by private organizations and the sending of information to local authorities, there has been no state action. A coroner's inquest returned a verdict of "homicide by persons unknown."

July 30: Louisburg, N.C.—Govan Ward, 23-year-old Negro, axe-slayer of C. J. Stokes, was taken from a sheriff and deputy sheriff, and hanged. His body was riddled with bullets. Ward had been arrested after the killing of Stokes and was being hurried from the county as a precaution against lynching. Ward was known to be insane.

State Action: So far, none. Lynching in broad daynight. Sheriff lived in community all his life and knew all the inhabitants. An NAACP investigation by a Southern white man revealed the names of nine members of the mob who lynched Ward, which names were turned over to the governor and solicitor general of North Carolina. Among the number were several county and city officials. "Investigations" by officials were barren of results; and as the Anderson (S.C.) Record states, "It is our guess that this investigation will end like the rest."

August 3: Yreka, Calif.—A mob of twenty-five men took C. L. Johnson (white) from the county jail and hanged him. Johnson was said to have confessed to being one of two men who shot down two officers when the officers stopped the men to question them about a series of robberies.

State Action: None. Night Marshal Richard W. Cheesborough, who was stationed in the city jail next door, said that he retired inside his own jail when he heard the mob of 25 men storming the county jail "because I didn't want to have anything to do with giving the keys to the mob." When asked if he had notified the authorities of the lynching, he asked, "What's the use?"

August 5: Pittsboro, Miss.—Bodie Bates, accused of attempting to attack a white woman, was lynched by a mob which stormed the Calhoun County jail. The body was found swinging from a rope under a bridge. Twelve hours after the body was cut down officers said they had no information regarding the identity of members of the mob.

State Action: None. After lynching Bates, the mob returned to the jail and carried off another Negro whom officers could not locate. No effort was made to defend this second prisoner and no one has been arrested.

August 22: Lowndes County, Ala. (NAACP Investigation)—Jim Meriweather, leader of the Sharecroppers' Union and of the cotton pickers' strike, was arrested by a sheriff's posse which took him away and killed him. The posse gave the excuse of "self-defense."

State Action: None.

August —: Lowndes County, Ala. (NAACP Investigation)—Smith Wadkins, leader in the Sharecroppers' Union, was taken by a band of vigilantes during the cotton pickers' strike, beaten, then shot to death.

State Action: None.

September 3: Hope Hill, Ala. (NAACP Investigation)—Edward Bracey was shot and killed by a gang of vigilantes during the cotton pickers' strike. The mob opened fire on the house and shot Bracey as he tried to escape through the back door.

State Action: None.

September 17: Oxford, Miss.—A mob lynched Ellwood Higginbotham, 28-year-old Negro, near Oxford while a jury was deliberating a verdict on charges that he killed Glen Roberts, a white planter. Higginbotham was seized in the county jail by a crowd of between 100 and 150 persons and hanged to a tree two and a half miles from town.

State Action: None. Inquiries have been answered by an announcement that no persons in the mob had been identified.

September 28: Vienna, Ga.—Lewis Harris, arrested on a charge of drunkenness and having threatened the arresting sheriff, was taken from the sheriff by a mob and hanged.

State Action: None.

October 16: Moultrie, Ga.—"Bo" Brinson was killed by a posse of citizens which was searching for John Henry Sloan, said to have slain a white man in Georgia. (Two National Guard companies were ordered to Moultrie to attend the trial of Sloan.)

State Action: None.

November 5: White Bluff, Tenn.—Baxter Bell, arrested allegedly for slapping a white woman, was taken by five relatives of hers from a city marshal and a deputy sheriff and shot to death. The killing was done with the deputy sheriff's gun, which the relatives borrowed from that official at the same time they took the prisoner. The gun was returned to the officer about twenty minutes later. Reports published in the Nashville Tennessean stated that the woman was drinking beer in a Negro store at the time the slapping is said to have occurred.

State Action: The five men were indicted for murder and acquitted by a jury. Judge Courtney declared, "I am astonished at your verdict."

November 12: Colorado County, Texas—A mob estimated at 700 persons, including several women, took Benny Mitchell and Ernest Collins, accused of the murder of a nineteen-year-old white girl, from Colorado County officers and hanged them to a tree four miles from Columbus, Texas. The mob then scattered in search of another Negro believed to be implicated in the murder. The two youths, 15 and 16 years old, were being taken from Houston to Columbus for trial on November 13 in Juvenile Court for the crime, said to have been committed on October 17.

State Action: None. County Attorney O. P. Moore issued a statement, saying, "I do not call the citizens who executed the Negroes a mob. I consider their action an expression of the will of the people." County Judge Hahn said, "I am strongly opposed to mob violence and favor orderly process of the law. The fact that the Negroes who so brutally murdered Miss Kollman could not be adequately punished by law because of their ages, prevents me from condemning those citizens who meted justice to the ravishing murderers last night."

December 9: Tampa, Fla.—Joseph Shoemaker, Eugene F. Poulnot and Sam J. Rogers, three white men, were kidnaped, flogged, tarred and feathered by a masked mob. Shoemaker died of his injuries. The three men had been questioned by the police for "Communistic activities." They were not Communists, but members of a political party known as the Modern Democrats.

State Action: Under pressure from private organizations, a series of indictments against twelve persons for kidnapping, and one against eight persons for the murder of Shoemaker, were returned. In May, 1936, five former Tampa policemen were placed on trial, convicted of the kidnapping of Poulnot, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment each. They appealed, and hearing on the appeal was set for January 28, 1937. The defendants have never been confined in jail and are now at liberty on bail. No other defendants except the five former policemen have been placed on trial, and these only for the kidnapping of Poulnot. There has been no trial for the kidnapping of Rogers or the murder of Shoemaker.

8 Lynchings in '37, No Arrests

NEW YORK — There were eight lynchings during 1937 in the United States and not a single arrest of any suspected lynchers, the NAACP reported this week.

The most brutal lynching of the year was the double killing of Roosevelt Townes and "Boot Jack" McDaniels by a mob at Duck Hill, Mississippi, April 13. The two men were tied to trees, stripped, and tortured with blow torches before being killed.

Innocence Proved

The most tragic lynching of the year was that of Wesley Johnson at Abbeville, Alabama February 1. Attorney General A. A. Carmichael of Alabama stated to the Alabama supreme court on June 5 that investigation had established that Johnson was completely innocent, that the sheriff knew he was innocent when he arrested him but took him into custody in order to satisfy local public opinion. Even with this knowledge, the sheriff did nothing to prevent Johnson's being lynched.

Florida led the year with three lynchings followed by Mississippi, two, and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee one each.

EIGHT DIE BY MOB, BUT NO ONE IS ARRESTED

NEW YORK, Jan. 6—There were eight lynchings during 1937 in the United States and not a single arrest of any suspected lynchers, the N.A.A.C.P. reported.

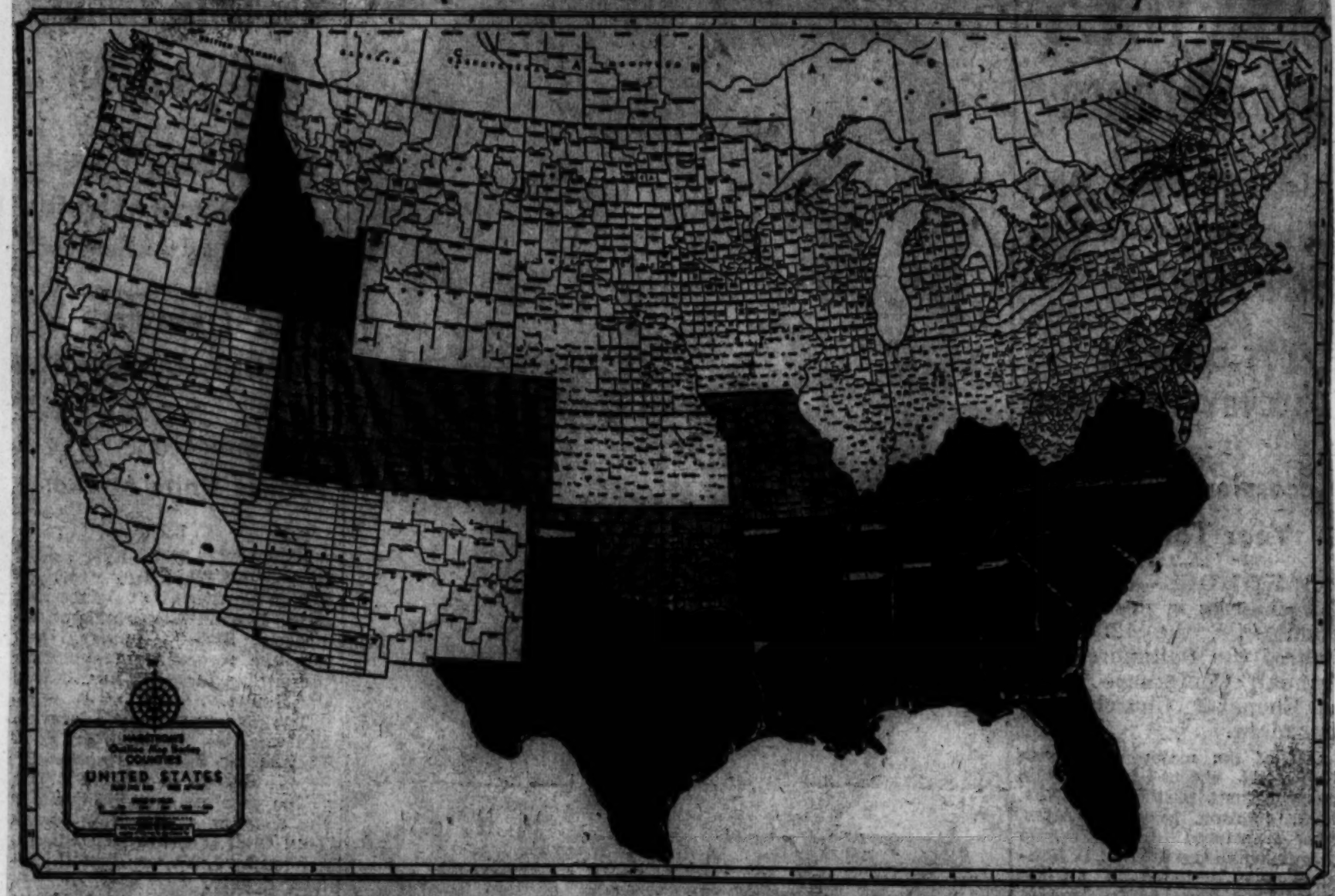
The most brutal lynching of the year was the double killing of Roosevelt Townes and "Boot Jack" McDaniels by a mob at Duck Hill, Mississippi, April 13. The two men were tied to trees, stripped, and tortured with blow torches before being killed.

The most tragic lynching of the year was that of Wesley Johnson at Abbeville, Ala., February 1. Attorney General A. A. Carmichael of Alabama stated to the Alabama Supreme Court on June 5 that investigation had established that Johnson was completely innocent, that the sheriff knew he was innocent when he arrested him, but took him into custody in order to satisfy local public opinion. Even with this knowledge, the sheriff did nothing to prevent Johnson's being lynched.

Florida led the year with three lynchings, followed by Mississippi, two, and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, one each.

NO ARRESTS IN ANY OF SOUTH'S 1937 LYNCHINGS

THE BLACK (LYNCHING-VOTELESS) BELT



Look at the above map, made vivid by the recent NAACP antilynching fight which forced a victorious vote in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Look at that black section of these United States known familiarly as the Solid South, which voted solidly against the Gavagan Antilynching Bill, and follow us in some thinking.

Will this Solid South be able, by hook or crook, to halt the passage of the Gavagan bill when it reaches the Senate? It may, if—

And that "if" is, if the tail of prejudiced reaction is able to wag the dog of that vast section of this country that stands for some measure of civilized decency; and—

If Senators who do believe that a Federal antilynching law should be passed will put on the "heat"; and—

If President Roosevelt will get into the fight with the same force with which he has gotten into the Supreme Court fight; and—

If colored voters in this instance rise in one solid phalanx and demand that no small coterie of Southern Senators be allowed to thwart the will of the majority of the American people.

* * * *

Then look at that map and prepare to do some more serious thinking.

In that group of Southern States which stood solidly against the antilynching measure, 8,634,158 of the 11,891,143 colored people in this country live—as almost votless and submerged human beings.

If the 3,256,985 who live in the section of the country where they have the ballot have been able to make their votes respected, what could the eight millions do with theirs if they could go to the polls as free American citizens and cast their ballots?

This black (lynch and votless) belt below the Mason and Dixon Line is a picture no thoughtful citizen should forget. It is tied to us all like a body of death. We cannot escape it.

The fight of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People against the lynch terror is vitally important. But that same organization's fight for the ballot and the equalization of educational opportunities is vastly more important, for it—and the fight others will make—will arm these eight millions of citizens with the ballot.

Whatever voting strength we have in that part of the country where the ballot is not denied people on account of their color, race or religion should not be wasted. Every eligible man and woman should register and thereby gird himself or herself with the weapon of civic self-defense.

And it will be to our interest to help that eight million get free. Help them by stiffening the backbone of our own representatives. Help them by strengthening the work of the N.A.A.C.P. and other organizations working to lift the color bar.

Again we ask, will the great and powerful section of the country represented by the white section of this map let the black, lynch and disfranchising group, of Southern States stand in the way of the passage of the Gavagan antilynching bill?

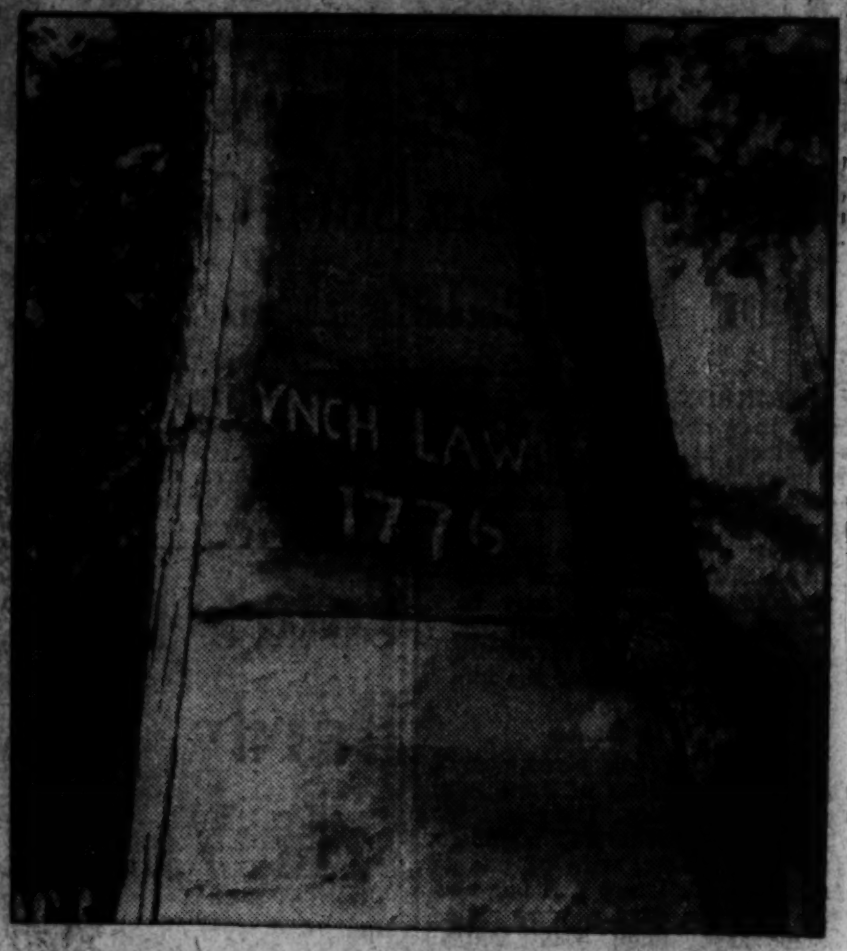
Lynchings-1937
N.A.A.C.P. - Reports.

5-8-37

S747

Unwritten American History

(SKETCHES OF AMERICAN LIFE — 1936)



MORE OF THESE OR AN ANTI-LYNCH LAW

This summary was compiled and issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

CARTHAGE, Texas, Jan. 16—Mace Gray, 40, was slain by a posse, charged with having run down two white girls with his car. Gray is said to have barricaded himself in a barn to resist capture. His body was riddled with bullets.

Sate Action: *None.*

MANGUM, Okla., Feb. 14—Willie Jones, accused of attacking a white woman and her daughter, was shot and killed by a mob of 300 men who were searching for him. Robbery was said by the sheriff to have been the motive for the attack on the woman and daughter.

Sate Action: *None.*

CUSSETA, Ga., March 14—Philip Baker, 35, hanged and shot by a mob of 30 or 40 men. He had been arrested December 31, 1935, charged with attacking two white women and a Negro woman, and had been carried to Macon for safekeeping. The sheriff was bringing him back to Columbus late at night for trial the next week when the mob took the prisoner on the road to Columbus.

Sate Action: *None.*

COLBERT, Ga., April 28—Lint Shaw was shot to death by a mob of about forty men eight hours before he was to go on trial on a charge of attempted criminal attack. A mob attempted to seize him at Danielsville, Georgia, but was thwarted by Judge Moseley who left a sick bed to hold off the mob until Shaw could be moved. He was moved to Macon, Georgia. He was returned to Danielsville but because of a mob was moved for safekeeping to Royston, a small town just about ten miles from Danielsville, and placed in a small one-story jail with the night chief of police the only officer on duty. The citizens learned of the transfer and followed.

State Action: *None.* Night Chief Dickerson said all of the men were strangers to him. Coroner's verdict was *death by gunshot wounds at hands of persons unknown.*

LEPANTO, Ark., April 29—Willie Kees, 19, was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman April 18. He was whipped and ordered to leave town. Kees returned and was arrested. On the way to the jail the mob seized him and shot him to death.

State Action: *None.* Coroner's verdict was *death by gunshot wounds at hands of persons unknown.*

PAVO, Ga., May 3—John Rushin, 55, accused of the murder of a white man. Rushin was seized by a large group of men. Deputy Sheriff Herbert Kennedy said the prisoner was "snatched" from him as he turned his head to answer a query while on the way to his auto.

State Action: *None.*

DETROIT, Mich., May 13—Charles A. Poole, 32, white W.P.A. worker, found shot to death. He was accused of beating his wife. Investigation revealed that Poole was shot by members of the Black Legion as a "ritual slaying."

STATb ACTION: Five members of THIS mob were convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

EARLE, Ark., June 8—Frank Weems and others, during the strike of sharecroppers called by the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, were attacked by carloads of planters and beaten. Weems was beaten into unconsciousness, carried into a store. No one was allowed near the store. His body disappeared. On June 17 and 18 the governor of Arkansas and sheriff announced they would soon produce Weems alive, but Weems has never been seen since June 8.

State Action: *None.* October 28 the N.A.A.C.P. wrote to the governor asking if Weems had been lynched. November 30 the governor's secretary answered that the governor's office had no evidence of the lynching of Weems. December 4 the N.A.A.C.P. wrote the governor asking if his office had any evidence that Weems had not been lynched and was still alive. December 8 the governor's secretary answered "This office has no record at all concerning Frank Weems."

DALTON, Ga., Sept. 6—A. L. McCamy, 21, accused of attempted attack on a white woman, was hanged near Dalton. He was removed from Whitfield to Dalton, less than ten miles away for "safekeeping." The jailer gave up the keys. The woman denied she had been attacked and said she could not identify the man who came to her room.

State Action: *None.*

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 12—Tom Finch, accused of rape of a woman of low mentality in an Atlanta Hospital where Finch was an orderly. The crime is alleged to have occurred in a small closet just off the crowded reception room of the white clinic with white doctors in offices on either side of the closet. The doctors, nurses and staff unanimously affirm their belief that the alleged crime could not have been committed. No complaint was made at the hospital and none to the police for thirty-six hours. The police secured the address of Finch at 9 p.m. and Finch was brought to the hospital in a dying condition at 4 a.m.

State Action: *None.* Police cooperated with lynchers and reported Finch killed in attempt to escape.

GREENVILLE, Fla., Sept. 11—Buckie Young, accused of attacking white woman, shot to death. The shooting was kept a secret for more than two weeks.

State Action: *None.*

LAUREL, Miss., Dec. 4—J. B. Grant, 17, shot to death by a mob. After his body was riddled with more than a hundred bullets, it was tied to an automobile and dragged through the streets, then hanged to a trestle.

State Action: *None.*

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

Alabama

5513

Negro Wounds Auburn Officer

Brought To Montgomery For 'Safe-Keeping'

AUBURN, ALA., March 7—(AP)—Police Chief G. F. Hawkins was slightly wounded late yesterday by Dave Cherry, negro, who later was arrested and taken to Montgomery "for safe keeping."

Hawkins was grazed by a pistol bullet which he said was deflected by a fountain pen and memorandum book in his vest pocket.

Surrendering following the shooting Cherry was taken to the Montgomery County jail.

Sheriff W. E. Holt, of Lee County, said a crowd of "50 or 75 men gathered around the jail here, and I thought I'd better get Cherry out of town."

Policeman Homer Roberts said he attempted to arrest Cherry on a charge of disorderly conduct at Opelika Saturday afternoon. The negro overpowered him and escaped with the policeman's pistol.

Hawkins said he went to Cherry's house after being notified of the Opelika affair and as he approached the negro shot at him.

"I dodge behind a tree when he started shooting, but one of the bullets hit my vest pocket," he said "If it had not been for my fountain pen and memorandum book, I guess I'd be a dead man now."

Hawkins said Cherry surrendered when his ammunitnon was exhausted. The negro was taken to jail, but removed later when a crowd began to gather.

Sheriff Holt said Cherry would be charged with robbery and assault with intent to murder.

Tuskegee Negro Held At Kilby For Safety

Hillard Chambless, 30, negro, was placed in Kilby Prison yesterday morning as a precautionary measure after he allegedly made an improper proposal to a white woman near Tuskegee, Sheriff Haygood Paterson said.

Chief Deputy Sheriff R. E. Bryan, of Macon County, said the negro "insulted" the woman late Thursday about a mile from Tuskegee near a negro resettlement project where he labored.

Although no charge was placed against Chambless, there is said to have been "high feeling" in Tuskegee over the alleged incident. Last night the feeling was reported subsiding.

NEGRO ATTACKER HELD

Suspect Removed to Kilby Prison After Being Identified

MONTGOMERY, Ala., May 16.—(AP)—A negro was held tonight "for safekeeping" in Kilby Prison in connection with an attack on an 18-year-old Montgomery girl, forced with a male companion last night into a cemetery at the point of a gun.

Sheriff Haygood Paterson said the negro was taken to nearby Kilby for safekeeping and charges would be preferred against him tomorrow.

"The girl," said Sheriff Paterson, "positively identified him, as did her companion."

The girl told officers she and her companion were accosted by an armed negro while walking home from a baseball game and forced into the cemetery under threats of death. The man, she said, was forced to lie face-down in the grass while she was attacked.

NEGRO GIRL JAILED TO FRUSTRATE MOB

Domestic Threw Rock Into Crowd of Boys.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 5. (UP)—Mary Ann Dunn, 18-year-old negro house girl, was held in jail for safekeeping tonight after police rescued her from an angry mob which threatened violence because she threw a rock into a group of boys.

The mob, numbering about 50 persons, gathered at the home where the girl was employed.

She told police she threw the rock because the boys had been pelting the side of the house.

One of the boys, Robert Wells, was struck by the rock and two stitches were required to close a head wound.

YOUTH IS HELD FOR ABBEVILLE ATTACK

He's Removed To Kilby For Safekeeping

By United Press

MONTGOMERY, Sept. 8.—Jabe McClendon, 22-year-old white man, was held in Kilby Prison today for safekeeping after being arrested in LaFayette, Ala., yesterday on a warrant charging him with assaulting a young woman in Abbeville.

He was brought here under guard of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt of Henry County and two state highway patrolmen, who reported the trip from LaFayette was made without incident.

Name of the youth's alleged victim was not revealed.

A mob last February took Wes Johnson, Negro accused of assault, from the Abbeville Jail and lynched him. Sheriff Corbitt was charged with negligence in the lynching but was later exonerated by a four-to-two decision of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Henry County Assault Case Suspect In Kilby

Jabe McClendon, a 22-year-old LaFayette white man, was held "for safekeeping" in Kilby Prison last night, charged with assaulting a young woman with whom he had a "date" in Abbeville Monday night.

The accused youth was arrested at his home early yesterday by Sheriff C. H. Milford, of Chambers County, at the request of Sheriff J. L. Corbitt, of Henry County.

Corbitt said he had a warrant against McClendon. He declined further comment.

Circuit Judge D. D. Bernstein ordered McClendon brought to Kilby "for safekeeping" when officers said public feeling reached a high pitch.

Corbett and two deputies brought McClendon to the State prison late yesterday, accompanied by State Highway Patrolmen Bob Slay, H. C. Chandler and D. A. Ware. The officers said the trip over a circuitous route was uneventful.

Sheriff Holds 5 Negroes In Coffee Death

Planter Dies Of Injuries Received Mysteriously; Ax Seen As Weapon

ENTERPRISE, ALA., Sept. 13.—(Special)—Ralph Gunter, 42, prominent Coffee County farmer of near New Brockton, died this afternoon at Gibson's Hospital of head wounds mysteriously received in a field near his home a week ago today.

Yesterday afternoon Sheriff W. B. Paul arrested five negroes in connection with the case and removed them from the county for safe keeping. Two went sent to Troy, one to Montgomery and the remaining two to undisclosed points as feeling was reported running high in the county.

The arrested negroes were listed as Son Pugh, tenant on the Gunter farm; and Son Clark, Berry Simmons, Charlie Moore and Bud Phelps Herron.

Found By Son

Gunter, in an unconscious condition, was found by his son, Howard Guy Gunter, lying near a tractor. He was suffering from three severe blows, two in the forehead, the other at the back of his head. Nearby investigators found an ax and a monkey wrench. Gunter was rushed to the hospital where he was found to have one or more skull fractures. He died without uttering a coherent statement.

Gunter was reported last seen about noon. His son left him at that time to attend a funeral of a neighbor and was gone about three hours. When he returned he found his father unconscious.

Clues Indicate Murder

"It looked like an accident at first," said Sheriff Paul, "but later investigation indicated it might be murder." Blood was reported found on the tractor seat, disproving a theory the farmer might have fallen from the tractor.

"It looks like murder to me," said H. W. Nixon, State toxicologist, called here to assist in the investigation. He has the ax and monkey wrench for a laboratory examination.

One of the arrested negroes was reported to have had trouble with the slain farmer. Officers, acting on a report the negroes had been seen in the vicinity where Gunter was found, during the son's three-hour absence, arrested them for questioning. What they learned was not available as the sheriff tonight was "not ready" to divulge that information.

Mr. Gunter was chairman of the Coffee County Aggricultural Conservation Association and of the county agricultural committee. He was a nephew of Jim Gunter, former chief of police of Enterprise and a son-in-law of Sam Morgan, Elba, for years Coffee County treasurer.

He is survived by his widow, his son, two daughters, Katherine and Ralphine; a brother and several sisters. Funeral will be held tomorrow at 3 p.m. from the Baptist Church at New Brockton.

Mobile Negro Brought To Kilby For Safety

MOBILE, ALA., Oct. 9.—(AP)—Sheriff R. L. Holcombe said tonight that Tom Kemp, negro accused of murder in connection with the fire box death of Mick Draughn several weeks ago was being transferred to Kilby Prison in Montgomery for safekeeping.

Holcombe said rumors of high feeling in Mississippi from which State Draughn came for Mobile several months ago led to his request for a court order sanctioning the transfer. The sheriff added, however, there had been no disturbances in connection with the case here.

Two deputies sheriff and two State Highway patrolmen were en route to Montgomery with the prisoner.

Draughn's death was at first believed accidental but Solicitor Bart B. Chamberlain said later that negro witnesses had told him they saw Kemp pull Draughn, white engineer, into the furnace of a crate factory in suburban Mobile.

State Officers Assigned To Negro's Trial

Twenty Men To Carry Son Pugh From Kilby To Enterprise

A detail of 20 State Highway Patrol Officers will have charge of the transfer from Kilby Prison to Enterprise, of Son Pugh, negro, who will go on trial there tomorrow for the murder of Ralph Gunter, prominent Coffee County planter, and will remain on duty in and about the courthouse while the trial is in progress, Chief Walter K. McAdory said last night.

In assigning the State Officers to the transfer and trial, Mr. McAdory added, he had complied with a request from Circuit Judge W. L. Parks, and Sheriff A. B. Lightner of Coffee County. While there was no indication of violence or disorder at Enterprise when Pugh was taken there for arraignment Monday, it is under-

stood that in view of the prominence of the late Mr. Gunter and the circumstances surrounding the crime with which the defendant is charged, authorities deemed it prudent to have the State officers supplement the sheriff's forces until the case has been disposed of.

Mr. Gunter was found beside a tractor on his plantation last August, unconscious from two deep wounds in his head. He died about a week later without rallying sufficiently to make a statement. One of a number of suspects subsequently arrested, Pugh has since made two confessions to the crime, according to officers. In the first he was quoted as saying he and Gunter quarreled over a crop settlement; that Gunter attacked him with a heavy wrench; that he fled and Gunter pursued him, and that he then picked up an ax leaning against the tractor and, in self defense, struck Gunter in the head with it.

In the second confession, it was said, Pugh repudiated his alleged former statement, declaring he struck the planter with the ax from behind as Gunter was placing some pine brush under one of the tractor wheels that had bogged down, in an effort to get the machine clear. At his arraignment Pugh pleaded not guilty, and Judge Parks appointed three lawyers to defend him at the trial which he set to begin tomorrow.

NEGRO TAKEN FROM MOB AT COLUMBIANA

By United Press

COLUMBIANA, Dec. 27. — A Christmas Day lynching was narrowly averted, it was revealed today when Sheriff C. H. Fore and two deputies took Ed Tannehill, Negro, from a mob of about 100 persons.

Tannehill and four companions, Sheriff Fore said, had resisted arrest and attempted to overpower Patrolman W. B. Ozley. Officer Ozley said the Negroes were drunk when he attempted to arrest them. One slipped up behind him and grabbed his gun.

Officer Ozley, however, obtained another gun from his automobile and shot one of the Negroes. All fled. Officers arrested three, placed the wounded Negro in a hospital and still are searching for the fifth.

Negro Is Rescued From Shelby Mob

Race Feeling Rises When Black Disarms Officer

COLUMBIANA, ALA., Dec. 26.—(AP) Three negroes were held in jail and another was in a hospital tonight, following a threat of mob violence when one of a group of negroes seized a highway patrolman's pistol near here.

When Highway Patrolman W. B. Ozley attempted to arrest a group of negroes on a charge of drunkenness, one of them slipped up behind him and took his pistol. Sheriff C. H. Fore said. When they fled, one of them, Ed Tannehill, was shot by the officer who took another gun from his car, according to Fore.

Fore said he and two deputies took the negro from a mob of about 100 persons and carried him to a hospital. Still another negro is being sought, he said.

Arkansas.

Lynchings—1937
Prevented 6

5755

SUSPECT ACCOSTING GIRL

Negro Held In Unannounced Jail For Attempted Assault

CAMDEN, Ark., Oct. 20—Sheriff [illegible] W. Ellis said today that Elery Cranford, 16, negro accused of attempted assault, was taken to a jail "in another part of the state" for safekeeping following his arrest this morning after accosting a 13-year-old girl at Fairview, three miles south of here.

The girl's screams frightened the negro away. She fought him after he had drawn the .32-caliber pistol and tried to force her to accompany him into the woods.

The negro was arrested early today by Constable Graham Milner. Sheriff Ellis found the pistol and said the negro youth had admitted accosting the girl. Cranford will be tried at the November term of Ouachita Circuit Court.

LYNCHINGS - 1 9 3 7 ARKANSAS

5756

PREVENTED

From Mrs. Ames' Report

Date	Place	County
Aug. 13	Texarkana,	Miller County

Negro accused of criminal asaault on white girl. Prisoner moved from jail to jail to prevent mob violence. Tried and sentenced to death on Sept. 13.

Lynchings-1937
Prevented. 6

California.

5757

Kidnap Subject Saved From California Mob

LOS ANGELES, April 9.—(AP)—Several hours after Dolores Snyder, 4, was abducted and released unharmed today, police whisked Gustave Mohr, 45, from an enraged crowd and charged him with suspicion of kidnaping the child.

4-10-37

Mohr was identified by Dolores as the man who seized her from in front of her home on the south side of Los Angeles, drove her about, bought her some candy, then drove away without harming her.

"That's him—don't let him get me again," the child cried when Mohr, married and the father of two children, was brought by police into the store operated by Dolores' parents.

As he was being taken from the store, a crowd of persons who gathered outside cried, "Lynch him! Take him away from the police and kill him!"

Lynchings–1937
Prevented

Florida

5517

5517

GRAND JURY TO PROBE FLORIDA LYNCH CASE

APALACHICOLA, Fla., June 9.—(AP)—A special Franklin county grand jury will meet Monday to consider charges that Robert Hinds, negro, assaulted a white woman here.

The accused was spirited away from Apalachicola after his arrest last month, when talk of mob violence arose, and has been kept secreted in an unannounced west Florida jail.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
June 10, 1937

Cone to Send National Guard To Protect Negro Defendant In Apalachicola Court Trial

Judge Johnson Requested Protection, Sheriff Advises Governor

Circuit Judge John B Johnson asked Governor Fred P Cone today for two companies of national guardsmen to protect Robert Hinds, a negro, when he is tried for assaulting a white woman at Apalachicola.

Sheriff C L Robbins of Franklin county conveyed the judge's request to the governor, whose secretary, Branch Cone, said the troops would be ordered out when a date is set for the trial.

Sheriff Ducked Mob

A national guard company has 78 members. Sheriff Robbins said officials wanted one machine gun company and one infantry company to provide adequate protection for the negro.

Sheriff Robbins rushed Hinds away from Apalachicola several weeks ago when a mob formed there and threatened to lynch the negro. The sheriff kept ahead of the mob in a wild dash through the western part of the state.

Hinds now is held in an unannounced jail for safekeeping. He has not been returned to Apalachicola.

Grand Jury to Meet

The Franklin county grand jury will meet at Apalachicola June 21 to consider Hinds' case. State Attorney Orion C Parker, jr, said the negro would not be taken before the grand jury.

If Hinds is indicted, a date will be set for his trial. William Hopkins, of Tallahassee, appointed by the court to defend the negro, announced he would request transfer of the trial to some other county. It may be moved to any county in the state, but such transfers usually are to a nearby county.

This county, where the state capitol is located, is in the same county circuit as Franklin county, 90 miles south of here.

Says Guards Necessary

Sheriff Robbins told attaches of the governor's office he acted for Judge Johnson, presiding judge of this circuit, in asking guardsmen to protect the negro. He said he considered such protection necessary because of lynching threats.

Sheriff Robbins said he had two deputies in Apalachicola, and that he did not believe they could protect the negro if mob violence developed at the trial.

NEGRO SUSPECT GUARDED

Militia Circle Jail Holding Accused Attacker For Trial

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 15.—(AP)—National Guardsmen ringed the Leon County courthouse to protect Robert Hinds, negro, who will be tried tomorrow on a charge of attacking a woman.

The negro was transferred from Pensacola today. He is charged with an attack in Apalachicola last May.

There was no demonstration against the negro here and officers said they had no difficulty bringing him from Pensacola, where he has been held since a band of men sought to lynch him after his arrest in Apalachicola.

GUARD NEGRO FROM MOB

Troop Units Called Out For Attack Case Trial

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 4—(AP)—Florida threw a ring of bayonets around a negro prisoner today to climax order in his trial of life. Two companies of National guardsmen, armed with machine guns, rifles and arms and tear gas, were charged with seeing that the law took its course with Robert Hinds, accused of attacking a woman.

Governor Cone ordered the militia to report for duty after State's Attorney Orion C. Parker and Sheriff C. L. Robbins of Appalachicola said they feared there might be an attempt to lynch Hinds.

Hinds, Protected By Guardsmen At Trial, Electrocuted In Fla.

RAIFORD, Fla., Aug. 5.—(Special)—Robert Hinds, executed here a few days ago, will be the last man to be claimed by the electric chair since electrocution replaced hanging as the legal method of executing death sentences in this State, on the first of the present year.

Following lynching threats, Hinds was tried at Apalachicola while National Guardsmen patrolled the court house grounds and surrounding streets, and found guilty of criminally assaulting a white woman, was sentenced to death.

NEGRO RUSHED TO PRISON

Florida Man Taken to Pen For Safe Keeping After Attack Attempt

MARIANNA, Fla., Sept. 24.—(INS)—Saul Clemson, 18-year-old negro inmate of the Florida Industrial School here, today was rushed to the state prison for safe keeping following charges that he attempted to attack a 30-year-old white woman.

Constable Fred Clark, who investigated the case, said the woman's 5-year-old child frightened the negro away when she began screaming for help for her mother.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
September 24, 1937

MOB VIOLENCE FEARED

MARIANNA, Fla., Sept. 24.—Saul Clemson, 18-year-old Negro inmate of the Florida Industrial School here, was rushed to the state prison at Raiford today when he was charged with the attempted criminal assault of a white woman. Authorities feared mob violence.

Marianna, Fla., Times Courier
September 24, 1937

VIOLENCE TO WHITE WOMAN LANDS FIS BOY IN RAIFORD

Alleged Assault On Mother, 25, Not Successful

Fear of possible mob violence and perhaps a duplication of the Claude Neal lynching here three years ago, adtuated the swift and secretive removal of Saul Clemson, 18 year old Negro inmate of the Florida Industrial School, to Raiford Prison yesterday.

The negro youth, accused of attempted criminal assault of a white woman, on an affidavit sworn out by the woman herself, was carried to the state prisoncamp by officials of the schools for his own safety, according to Constable Fred Clark.

The attempt at assault occurred Wednesday morning at about 11:00 o'clock Clark said, when the Clamson youth was pulling corn in the fields of the school. Apparently, the depty reported Clemson slipped away from the field and accosted the white woman and her five year old daughter on the road nearby.

Clamson spoke to the woman asking her severeal questions which she refused to answer, according to Clark. She told him to leave but the negro persisted finally resorting to violence.

[illegible] Clemson [illegible] a hand over her mouth. Her struggles and the screams of her daughter apparently frightened the negro into leaving her alone. He ran away.

No mention of the attempt to assault was made by the woman until much later in the day, according to Clark, who said that apparently she had not wanted her husband to cause trouble. The husband was told several houra after the violence.

Frist complaint to the local law enforcement officers was made by the husband who bought his wife down to swear out an affidavit, formally accusing Clemson with the crime.

Actual charge against the Negro will probably be brought this end of the week by State Attorney, John H. Carter, Jr., or County Attorney, B L Solomon, who are today in Panama City on business.

Clemson, who was in the Florida Industrial School here on a larceny count, may be charged and returned to the Jackson County jail but it is hardly likely, according to officials.

He is from Dade City, Florida.

LYNCHINGS- 1937 FLORIDA

PREVENTED

5758

From Mrs. Ames' Report

Sept. 9. Lakeland, Polk County
It was reported that a mob of 300 gathered and tried to take a Negro man and his wife, the man being accused of attacking a 2-year old white child who was left in his wife's care.
Reported that they were "taken to unknown jail for safekeeping."

LYNCHINGS - 1937 GEORGIA

PREVENTED

5748

From Mrs. Ames' Report

April 29. Waycross, Ware County
Levy L. Rozier, white man,
accused of attacking two
girls, (one Negro, 1 white)
on Feb. 17; also other attacks
at other times. Arrested at
Alma and brought to Chatham
County jail (Savannah) for
safekeeping.

(See Augusta Chronicle, 4/30/37

Tried and sentenced to be
electrcuted.

Lynchings—1937
Prevented

Georgia

5751

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
May 31, 1937

GUARDSMEN HELD READY

Atlanta Fears Attempt to Lynch Confessed Slayer

Atlanta, May 31. (U.P.)—Heavily reenforced police guards patrolled "mob-proof" Fulton tower today where a 35-year-old negro chauffeur was held for the hammer slaying of Mrs. R. M. Fluker.

Two blocks away picked squads of Georgia national guardsmen were ordered to stand by at the 122nd infantry armory after rumors circulated a mob would attempt to take the accused slayer from the jail.

The negro—Milton Jackson—confessed under police questioning last night that he attacked Mrs. Fluker with a hammer, struck her several blows on the head and then fired her home after saturating it with gasoline.

Her charred body was taken from the ruins of her new home in exclusive Peachtree Hills by firemen early Saturday night.

Jackson was arrested in the negro section three hours later after neighbors told police he had driven away in the family car when the house began to burn. Police said he was intoxicated at the time of his arrest.

R. M. Fluker, husband of the dead woman, gave the only clue for a motive when he testified at the inquest that Jackson believed his employers owed him 75 cents. Fluker testified that the negro probably became intoxicated and angry over the alleged debt when he made the attack.

Screams Heard

Although an autopsy revealed Mrs. Fluker's skull was crushed by the blows from the hammer, neighbors testified at the inquest they heard screams when the house began to burn and indicated the woman was burned to death.

A heavy hammer, which police believed was the death instrument, was found in the garage of the Fluker home. It had been dipped in white paint as if to cover bloodstains. Police said Jackson had been painting the house earlier Saturday.

Assistant Solicitor General Ed A. Stephens of Fulton superior court said he would ask the grand jury for a first degree murder indictment tomorrow. He said he would move for a trial two weeks hence, earliest possible date on the court calendar.

Although all possible precautions were taken to prevent mob violence there was no outward indication that any efforts would be made to take the negro from jail. Emmett Quinn, chief of Fulton county deputies, said he had heard rumors of possible trouble, however, and that the nation guard would use "machine guns and tear gas" to disperse any mob that appeared.

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

Georgia

5752

NEGROES UNDER GUARD IN TORCH DEATH PLOT

Two Held After Rescue Of Storekeeper

DALTON, Ga., Dec. 27.—(UP)—Two negroes, suspected of attempting to make a human torch of a crippled storekeeper were under heavy guard tonight.

The negroes, Fred Simpson and Zora Dillard, assertedly were identified by Walter Snider, who was rescued by a neighbor.

Mr. Snider told Chief of Police W. H. Soutter that two negroes entered his store last night, flourished a pistol and demanded receipts of the day.

When he refused, one of the negroes rammed a handkerchief down his throat. It was imbedded so deeply, a physician had to use instruments to remove it.

Finally they bound him to a counter and drenched the interior of the store with kerosene. Dropping a match, they fled.

Doctors said he would recover.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
January 3, 1937

Law Upheld

LAW enforcement is adequate when officers of the law are determined to uphold the law. That is a truism worth stating only because of the great number of instances in which law enforcement officers are derelict in discharging their plain duty to the public. A lynching was frustrated in Rome, Georgia, Tuesday night by Sheriff M. E. Horton, of Floyd county, and Jailer Charlie Gillam, who took precautionary measures which, in the circumstances, would probably not have occurred to officials less alert to the public interest than they.

In the Floyd county jail are, or were, two Negroes charged with an attempt on the life of a citizen of Dalton, Georgia. The crime with which they are charged is a heinous one; a merchant was bound and locked within his store and the building set fire. He was able to crawl to the front of the burning building and escape the flames. Two Negroes were arrested and the merchant identified them as his assailants. The Negroes were soon transferred to the jail at Rome. A cavalcade of automobiles occupied by armed men formed in Dalton Tuesday night and set out for Rome. Sheriff Horton was informed by telephone of what was apparently "in the wind." He acted promptly.

Occupants of the vanguard of Dalton automobiles were met in the jail yard at Rome by a number of armed men. Sheriff Horton and his deputies were prepared to resist any show of force. Their duty is to uphold the law, and they were prepared to do their duty. What might have been a mob intent upon committing murder became, instead, a large number of men who realized suddenly that their own blood was a price too high to pay for the vengeance they sought. They presumably returned to Dalton. There was no violence.

To assert that lynching and other forms of mob violence cannot be stamped out by the same sort of prompt, intelligent, courageous action is to misinterpret the spirit of a mob. Men in the mass who have armed themselves with murderous intent are a cowardly lot whose taste for violence is limited strictly to the violence of which they themselves are authors. A threat to put them on the receiving end will usually result in the sort of exhibition of which the Georgia officers at Rome can well be proud.—Chattanooga Times.

Two Men Rescue Negro From Burke County Mob

Will Hopkins, Charged With Assaulting White Woman, Jailed in Savannah

Telegraph

SAVANNAH, Ga., April 29 (AP)—Will Hopkins, Negro farmhand, was brought to the Chatham county jail for safe keeping tonight by Sheriff J. L. Herrington of Burke county, who said the Negro had been rescued from a mob by two "level-headed" citizens.

4-30-37

Hopkins, charged with assaulting a white woman near Blythe, Ga., lay huddled in the floor of a car while Sheriff Herrington made arrangements for placing him in jail.

The sheriff said the two citizens, who asked that their names not be quoted, carried the Negro away in their automobile when a mob started gathering near Midville.

The pair kept him in their car, driving around seldom used roads until they were able to get in touch with the sheriff. They accompanied him to Savannah.

Earlier, the sheriff had said that he did not believe Hopkins, hunted by his deputies for three days, would ever be found alive.

"Even if our men had found him first," the sheriff said, "the temper of the crowd was such that we might have lost him."

The Negro was accused of attacking a 38-year-old white woman at her home near Blythe early Monday morning. She was treated at an Augusta, Ga., hospital.

Hopkins was recognized by townsmen when he walked into Midville, Ga., to apply for work.

Mob Gathers Quickly

The Negro was found employed at a highway construction camp on the Midville-Swainsboro road. Taken by five men in an automobile, he was whisked away even as two Burke county sheriffs deputies were on their way to Midville, arriving only five minutes after the accused had been removed.

The incarceration of the Negro at Savannah came as a climax to a 72-hour man-hunt conducted by citizens of Burke and Richmond counties, which started Monday morning near the scene of the alleged crime.

Word that the Negro had been found spread rapidly. The news was passed from citizen to citizen in the Blythe section of both Burke and Richmond counties. A mob began to gather before noon; succeeding hours increased its size.

Preconceived plans called for the mob to gather at Farmers' Bridge, just southeast of Keysville, Ga., and almost within throwing distance of a railroad trestle over which the Negro was seen fleeing 48 hours before with Burke officers in close pursuit.

One hundred or more persons formed the vanguard to the bridge. The mode of their apparel varied almost as much as the type of firearms so abundantly in evidence. Some in the party wore "Sunday clothes," others gave the appearance of having just quit the field.

Turned Over to Officers

Throughout the afternoon, automobiles loaded with farmers and business men wound through the little town of Keysville, and to the bridge.

Hours, it seemed, they waited, until finally an automobile drove up. The driver, whose identity was not learned, raised his voice above the babble of the others:

"Follow me," he shouted.

Farmers and business men rushed to their cars and left the scene in hot pursuit of the leader. They drove several miles to a store. The leader stopped. On the porch of the store stood a spokesman. He said loud enough for all to hear:

"The Negro has been turned over to the sheriff and is in the Richmond county jail at Augusta."

While astonished, and somewhat chagrined members of the mob stood apparently stunned by the news, another automobile arrived. From it emerged a man. He climbed to the porch; he addressed the crowd, all standing more or less dumbfounded.

"I have turned the Negro over to Sheriff Herington," the spokesman said, "and the Negro now is in the jail at Savannah."

WHITE MEN ASSIST IN ESCAPE

Atlanta Interracial Leader Praises

"Samaritans" MOB DISPERSED

SAVANNAH. — (SNS) — Two white men Friday were credited with having saved a colored farmhand, accused of attacking a white woman near Blythe, Ga., from possible mob vengeance.

The "good samaritans" who didn't want their names mentioned, outwitted a posse near Midville, about 100 miles northwest of here, late Thursday, and safely delivered Will Hopkins to Sheriff J. L. Herrington of Burke county. Hopkins was brought here by Sheriff Herrington for safe-keeping.

Words of praise for the manner in which the accused farmhand was saved from the hands of the mob came Friday from R. B. Eleazer, of Atlanta, who is secretary of the Interracial Committee there. He said that the "citizens' action in riding the man around in an automobile through rural Burke county was one of the most creditable things ever done in such a case."

The movements employed by the "level-headed citizens" in foiling the would-be lynchers, drew wide comment in this city. According to police reports, the white woman declared she was attacked last Monday and that her attacker was last seen making his way to a near-by swamp.

A posse searched the swamp but was unable to locate the alleged criminal. Later, it was reported that Will Hopkins, who fitted the descriptions given by the white woman, was recognized as one of the men working on a road gang near Midville.

In order to check the approaching mob, five men, riding in an automobile, forced Hopkins into their machine and escaped with him late Thursday. It was feared that these men were members of the posse and little hope of the accused man ever returning alive was advanced.

But it so happened that these five men were working in the interest of Hopkins. Three of them left the car and the colored man was covered up on the floor of the machine. After riding around the town several hours, Sheriff Herrington was contacted and arrangements made for Hopkins to

The dissatisfied mob which had been waiting at the bridge near Midville dispersed when it was told that Hopkins was being carried to Savannah for safe-keeping.

Although the sheriff refused to give names of the men who aided in saving the life of Hopkins, he expressed his opinion as "their luck thought and action probably prevented a lynching."

Judge Lynch Outdone

Georgia owes a debt of gratitude to two middle aged farmers who live near Blythe. They are those whose quick thinking and determined judgment prevented the wounding of Georgia [illegible] another lynching.

A Negro was accused of assaulting a white woman near Blythe. A mob formed. Sheriff's deputies were seeking the Negro. Word reached the sheriff that the man was found.

Elected peace officers took the understandable but uncommendable attitude:

"Even if our men had found him first, the temper of the crowd was such that we might have lost him."

That was conceding obeisance to lynch law even before the mob had got its man.

But the two solid farmers (their names first were undisclosed but now are reported as Fred Pennington and Ben Fulcher) did not concede. What they did was no condonement of the crime the Negro was accused of. It was a splendid demonstration that even persons close to such an outrage may keep their wits about them, and may remain human beings although the raw beast inside has been aroused.

The Negro was found working on a highway construction camp. News reached the mobsters and they started for him. Apparently deputies did make an honest effort to save the Negro, but they reached the scene a few minutes after five men had whisked him away in an automobile.

Details of how two men outwitted the mob have been somewhat obscure. But apparently they took him from the first quintet at the mob's appointed execution place shortly before the crowd reached there. When the murderous caravan arrived two spokesmen—their names still are unreported—announced the Negro was in official custody. One said he was in Savannah; the other that he was in Augusta.

Actually, the two men who saved their state from another lynching disgrace took the Negro in their car and drove around side roads for several hours, finally turning the captive over to Sheriff J. L. Herrington of Burke county. Sheriff Herrington, who a few hours before had considered the Negro lynched, commended the men for being "level-headed".

Georgians must some day understand that the mass lawlessness of lynching is as depraved and awful as the unmasked savagery of the crime that lynch assumes to punish. Legal justice must be kept supreme.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
May 2, 1937

Judge Lynch Outdone

Georgia owes a debt of gratitude to two middle aged farmers who live near Blythe. They are those whose quick thinking and determined judgment prevented the wounding of Georgia justice with another lynching.

A Negro was accused of assaulting a white woman near Blythe. A mob formed. Sheriff's deputies were seeking the Negro. Word reached the sheriff that the man was found.

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Huntsville, Ala., Times
April 30, 1937

NEGRO RESCUED FROM LYNCHING

Two White Men Hide Farm Hand While Mob Gathers

SAVANNAH, Ga., April 30 (AP)—Two Georgia farmers were given credit today for saving from possible violence a negro farm hand, accused of attacking a white woman near Blythe, Ga.

The Augusta Herald named the two men as Fred Pennington and Ben Fulcher, "about 50 years old," of Blythe, a town of 209 population in east-central Georgia.

The negro, bonded as Will Hopkins, was brought here for safekeeping late yesterday after he had been delivered to Sheriff L. Herrington of Burke county by the two men who outwitted a mob gathered near Midville, about 100 miles northwest of here.

In Atlanta, R. B. Eleazer, secretary of the interracial commission, said the citizens' action in riding the negro around rural Burke county in an automobile until they could locate the sheriff was "one of the most creditable things ever done in such a case."

"A bright spot in the lynching situation is that more and more are being prevented by intelligent citizens and conscientious officers," he added.

The attack on the white woman occurred near Blytheville on Monday, but the suspected negro eluded posses in a nearby swamp. Hopkins was recognized while at work on a construction gang near Midville yesterday and was whisked away in an automobile occupied by five men.

Authorities were fearful the five were would-be lynchers and expressed doubt the suspect would be found alive.

But it developed, Sheriff Herrington said, the men who seized the negro were merely acting to forestall others they knew to be moving on the camp. After the negro was taken, three of the men left the car, while the other two rode around rural roads for several hours and continued their efforts to communicate with Sheriff Herrington.

Tallahassee, Fla., Democrat
April 30, 1937

CITIZENS FOIL LYNCHING MOB

Accused Negro is Kept For Sheriff

SAVANNAH, (AP)—Two Georgia farmers saved a negro farmhand accused of attacking a white woman near Blythe, Ga. from mob violence.

The Augusta Herald said the two men are Fred Pennington and Ben Fulcher, both "about 50 years old," of Blythe, a town of 209 population in east-central Georgia.

The negro, bonded as Will Hopkins, was brought here for safekeeping late yesterday after he had been delivered to Sheriff J L Herrington of Burke county by the men who outwitted a mob gathered near Midville, about 100 miles Northwest of here.

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But it developed, Herrington said, that the men were merely acting to forestall others they knew to be moving on the camp. Three of the men left the car while the other two rode around rural roads for several hours.

A rendezvous was established with the sheriff and Hopkins was brought on in here, huddled on the floor of the two men's automobile. The men then went back to Midville and advised the mob, assembled near a bridge just outside town, that the negro was in the strong Chatham county jail.

Augusta, Ga., Chronicle
May 5, 1937

BLYTHE MEN, SHERIFF OF BURKE PRAISED FOR PREVENTING LYNCHING

A resolution expressing appreciation to those in authority who through prompt and efficient action averted a miscarriage of justice recently in preventing a lynching in this community, was passed unanimously and enthusiastically by the members of the executive board of the Augusta Woman's club yesterday.

The resolution was introduced by Mrs. David Nachman, who pointed out that the club, since its inception, had carried on an active campaign for strict law enforcement. The resolution commended the action of the sheriff and his deputies and the two "level headed citizens" who turned over a Negro, Will Hopkins accused of a criminal attack upon a Burke county white woman, to the authorities.

Lynchings-1937
Prevented.

Georgia.

5753

INSIDE STORY OF THWARTED LYNCHING TOLD BY REPORTERS ASSIGNED TO COVER MURDER

DRINK WHISKEY AND GAMBLE WHILE THEY WAIT FOR VANISHED VICTIM

Mobbists Threaten "Double Crossers"

AUGUSTA, Ga., May 13.—(ANP)—Three white reporters for the Augusta Herald, who went near Blythe to await a lynching which was averted when two level-headed white farmers kidnaped the intended victim, gave him to a sheriff, and helped rush him to Savannah for safe keeping, gave graphic, eyewitness reports of the thwarted mob.

Over 20 automobiles were parked in a hollow three miles from Blythe. A mob of 100 men, both farmers and merchants, waited patiently for the arrival of a car in which was Willie Hopkins, 21 years old, and reputedly feeble-minded, who was charged with attacking a white farm woman.

Although every citizen in Blythe knew the location of the lynching ground, according to the reporters, deputy sheriffs from several counties stood around talking in the little town square claiming no knowledge of the pending atrocity.

"Would we be here if we knew where the lynching will take place?" they replied to the newsmen's questions.

Strangers in the area were viewed with suspicion. But citizens finally told the reporters where to go, and one man said "Ain't no officer got him now—he's as good as dead right now. They gonna lynch him sure as I'm standing here."

At the site, men stood around. The ground was wet. They wore high-top boots. Holsters bulged with pistols and leather thongs of black jacks were seen above hip pockets. On the rear seat of an automobile lay two high-powered rifles and an automatic shot gun.

There was the sound of a cracking tree branch. Men looked up. One said, "It's some guy just practicin' with his gun."

After hours of waiting, one in the crowd walked a few paces and drew a line on the wet ground. "Let's pitch it for a nickle a shot," he said. Ten men joined and the game lasted until the few nickles gave out.

They took drinks from quart jars of liquor. Finally one overall-clad figure walked in the middle of the road and said in a loud voice, "My God, I've never seen so many ugly people together at one time in my life. I didn't know there were so many in Burke county."

A carful of women, who had gone to the country to pick flowers, rounded the curve before reaching the hollow. They stepped back when they saw the line of parked automobiles and men with sticks standing there.

After a period of time that seemed endless, an automobile filled with men skidded to a stop on the edge of the crowd. An occupant shouted, "All who have automobiles, follow me."

At a filling station a few miles away, the mob was informed by another farmer, "There ain't going to be any lynching as the Negro has been turned over to the law."

Several threats were muttered by the crowd when they learned they had been thwarted. Some shouted cries of "double crossers!" The men milled about, wanting to know why. The speaker answered, "Listen, we don't want to go on the chaingang."

Soon afterward the mob dispersed.

The two men who saved Hopkins from being lynched were Fred Pennington and Ben Fulcher, prominent farmers of the area.

From Atlanta came word of praise by R. R. Eleazer, white, secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, who said this action was "one of the most creditable things ever done in such a case."

Columbia, S. C. State
May 5, 1937

More "Level-Heads" Needed.

From Georgia, a few days ago, came the story of an averted lynching. A Negro accused of attacking a white woman was in danger from a mob gathering at a nearby town. A few "level-headed men," as the report terms them, determined that there should be no mob violence in their community. They took the Negro in charge and drove him around the county until they found the sheriff of Burke county. They delivered the Negro to the sheriff, who took the prisoner to jail in Savannah for safe-keeping.

"Level-headed" is a good adjective for men who combine strong will and intelligent action to prevent lynching. Mobs cannot think; they only feel; they have lost their heads. The men who are not swept off their feet by passion, who do not in hasty rage lose their capacity for clear thought, are those who can and will support the law. They are those who know that lawless punishment of crime only breeds more lawlessness, more crime.

We need more of these level-headed citizens.

LYNCHING AVERTED, BUT—

Most of our readers are aware of the lynching that was averted in Burke County by the commendable efforts of two worthy citizens of that county and courageous action of the sheriff in spiriting the accused to the Chatham County jail. The blood thirsty mob was thus thwarted. The sheriff and court officials were fully determined to prevent any unlawful demonstration in regards to the case and acted wisely toward that end. The accused was indicted for the crime, and the very next day, without any notice of the trial in order to keep down demonstration, he was given a trial, convicted and sentenced to the electric chair. Those who were eager for his blood, were aghast and disappointed. Matters not how hurried the trial was, it was noted as an improvement over lynch law. Heretofore the excuse for lynching was because of the delay of the law in trying cases. This is a refutation and should satisfy the fault-finders. There should be no need for such forced trials. There should only be an orderly procedure along legal lines. Those persons who are so blood-thirsty for speedy punishment, should be consistent and set an example for law enforcement, by not threatening mob law or interfering with orderly court procedure. The instigators of mob law should be dealt with a heavy hand. Do this and mob and lynching parties in the state will be acts of the past.

Anniston, Ala. Star
May 15, 1937

ESCAPES LYNCHING

Negro Safe After Attack On White Men

ATLANTA, Ga., May 15. (U.P.)—Elmer Stanford, 20-year-old Negro, was in a prison hospital today, safe from a mob of 200 men that threatened to lynch him for attacking two white men.

Stanford, intoxicated, ordered E. H. Goggins, a white man, off the sidewalk. When Goggins refused, the Negro hit him with a brick. As a crowd gathered, Stanford picked up a club and felled W. C. Steed, 55, another white man.

Stanford fled and took refuge in a nearby house after his pursuers had shot him in the hip. Police rescued him.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
April 30, 1937

"Level-Headed" Pair Save Georgia Negro From Mob

SAVANNAH, Ga., April 30 (AP)—Two "level-headed citizens" who didn't want their names known were praised today for saving from possible mob violence a negro farmhand accused of an attack on a white woman near Blytheville, Ga.

The negro, bonded as Will Hopkins, was brought here for safekeeping late yesterday after he had been delivered to Sheriff J. L. Herrington of Burke County by the men who outwitted a mob gathered near Midville, about 100 miles northwest of here.

In Atlanta, R. B. Eleazer, secretary of the Interracial Commission, said the citizens' action in riding the negro around in an automobile until they could locate the sheriff was "one of the most creditable things ever done in such a case."

The suspected negro was recognized while at work on a construction gang yesterday and was whisked away in an automobile occupied by five men.

Authorities were fearful the five were would-be lynchers and expressed doubt the suspect would be found alive.

But it developed, Harrington said, that the men were merely acting to forestall others they knew to be moving on the camp. Three of the men left the car while the other two rode around rural roads for several hours.

A rendezvous was established with the sheriff and Hopkins was brought on in here, huddled on the floor of the two men's automobile. The men then went back to Midville and advised the mob, assembled near a bridge just outside town, that the negro was in the strong Chatham County jail. The crowd of 100 or more men dispersed with a few mutterings, the sheriff said.

ATLANTA NEGRO KEPT FROM MOB

Chauffeur Held In Hammer Slaying Of Prominent Georgia Woman

By United Press.

ATLANTA, May 31.—Heavily reenforced police guard patrolled "mob proof" Fulton Tower today where a 35-year-old Negro chauffeur was held for the hammer slaying of Mrs. R. M. Fluker.

Two blocks away picked squads of Georgia National Guardsmen were ordered to stand by at the 122nd Infantry Armory after rumors circulated a mob would attempt to take the accused slayer from jail.

The Negro—Milton Jackson—confessed under police questioning last night that he attacked Mrs. Fluker with a hammer, struck her several blows on the head and then fired her home after saturating it with gasoline.

Charred Body Found

Her charred body was taken from the ruins of her new home in exclusive Peachtree Hills by firemen early Saturday night.

Jackson was arrested in the Negro section three hours later after neighbors told police he had driven away in the family car when the house began to burn. Police said he was intoxicated at the time of his arrest.

R. M. Fluker, husband of the dead woman, gave the only clew for a motive when he testified at the inquest that Jackson believed his employers owed him 75 cents. Fluker testified that the Negro probably became intoxicated and angry over the alleged debt when he made the attack.

Screams Heard

Although an autopsy revealed Mrs. Fluker's skull was crushed by the blows from the hammer, neighbors testified at the inquest they heard screams when the house began to burn and indicated the woman was burned to death.

A heavy hammer, which police believed was the death instrument, was found in the garage of the Fluker home. It had been dipped in white paint as if to cover bloodstains. Police said Jackson had painting the house earlier Saturday.

Assistant Solicitor General Ed A. Stephens of Fulton Superior Court said he would ask the grand jury for a first degree murder indictment tomorrow. He said he would move for a trial two weeks hence, earliest possible date on the court calendar.

Negroes Jailed For Safekeeping

Montgomery Sheriff Holds 11; Attack Believed Cause

MOUNT VERNON, Ga., Sept. 1 — Sheriff Peterson placed in the Montgomery county jail last night 11 Negroes for safekeeping as the result of feeling aroused by a Negro having entered the Truman Conner home Saturday night.

After a fight with Conner the Negro escaped and has since been hunted by officers and posse in lower part of county.

Among those in jail are several members of the accused man's family. Seventy-five men were on the ground yesterday in efforts to locate the Negro.

Sheriff Peterson, anticipating trouble, brought in the Negroes on their own plea as a safeguard. Today the Negroes refused to leave the jail. Sheriff Peterson made a survey of the territory last night and found everything quiet.

Lynchings - 1937
Prevented 5

Kentucky.

5759

WHITE MAN WHO SLEW [illegible] GUARDED BY POLICE

SALYERSVILLE, Ky., November 18—(Special) — A special detachment of State police arrived here Monday to reinforce local officers in keeping down threats of violence by practically the entire population of this place against Wiley Salyer, 35-year-old white man, who shot and killed Chief of Police Lewis Marshall as the officer who had arrested Salyer on charges of being drunk and disorderly, was attempting to place him in jail Sunday afternoon.

The State officers were dispatched here at the request of Commonwealth's Attorney Earl R. Cooper who appealed to Adjutant General Lee McLain advising him the people were getting out of hand and emphasized the need for aid. The force sent was in charge of Lieutenant J. E. Harbison who, on his arrival took over general charge of preserving order.

Salyer who was shot in the stomach by the dying officer, is under treatment at a hospital where his condition remains critical.

LYNCHINGS - 1937 LOUISIANA

PREVENTED

5760

From Mrs. Ames' Report

March 14. Alexandria, Rapides Parish
Two Negroes were arrested, accused of beating and attacking a 16 year-year-old white girl. They were removed to Baton Rouge.
Later released, as no positive evidence could be obtained.

Lynchings - 1937
Prevented

Louisiana

5761

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July 14, 1937

A deputy sheriff in a Louisiana county followed a mob that had captured a man charged with criminal assault and found it while the noose was being fitted to the neck of the culprit. He boldly advanced to the center of the mob, took the prisoner and landed him in jail. He said that he "just talked them out of a lynching." It must have been strong talk but the deputy did what many other officers of the law might have done in the past if they had possessed the Louisianan's courage.

LOOPED ABOUT NECK, (S SAVED BY ORATORY

and in his own words "just talked them out of a lynching."

Chester, S. C., Reporter
July 15, 1937

A nervy and resourceful Deputy Sheriff averted a lynching at ...ton, La., this week by going out among the mob and out-talking them. The rope was being placed around the negro's neck when the deputy arrived, and in a few more moments he would have been dangling in the air. But the cool and courageous officer elbowed his way to the center of the angry crowd, took charge of the prisoner,

Lynchings-1937

Prevented.

Maryland

5762

ill Moved to rederick After Threat

Washington

—Nov.—

ate Police Fear Lynching of Man Charged With Attacks

OCKVILLE, Md. — A threat mob law sent Maryland State ers here Monday night to es- Rancher Lee Gill, Washing- man, charged with criminal ult on two white women, to derick where he was placed in to await a special grand jury, day.

Gill is the son of Dr. Lee A. Gill, sident Washington physician, officers at his home, at 2148 treet Northwest.

Gill expressed disappoint- at a local lawyer who got d his son to be extradited to rland. The physician said he that he would keep the in the District for at least 30 days allowed by law and e him examined at Gallinger spital.

Dr. Gill who visited his son in ckville Monday, said the youth d him that he was brought in- the police court in Washington, nday and from there ordered, thout advice of counsel to be nt to Maryland.

Soon after reaching the Mary- jurisdiction there was talk lynching among groups of persons. To prevent mob state troopers hurried Gill to Frederick for safe keeping. Since Monday Dr. Gill has employed ther counsel.

The physician said he was a- kened Sunday night by five de- tives who came to his home and manded Rencher. The officers fused to tell Dr. Gill what they wanted with his son or what charge had been placed against him. They found Rencher asleep an upstairs room. Dr. Gill said the police promised that they would not abuse or ill-treat their prisoner. Dr. Gill said he also pointed out to the detective the mental condition of his son and told the officers that he was of unsound mind.

Dr. Gill saw his son Monday, and the youth told his father that he had not been abused but had signed a paper. This was taken to mean that he has waived extradiction without advice of an attorney.

The physician said he had discussed the matter with his lawyer and had agreed that the son would not be taken immediately to Maryland. Later it was learned that while the lawyer was in another part of the court Rencher was brought before the judge and ordered sent to Maryland.

Dr. Gill said his son was harmless, though mentally weak. However, he has not been treated at any local hospital. He said the youth would agree to do anything suggested to him. He scoffed at the alleged confession obtained by police.

Gill has been in Washington all his life. He frequently begins convesing with strangers in the street.

The youth is held for attacks on two white women in the fashionable Chevy Chase residential district just outside of the District line.

The first attack is said to have occurred in November and the second last Thursday. In a police line up last Saturday, the women pointed him out, although they had previously testified that the man was white. Gill is of a light complexion. In each case the women were robbed. According to Detective Sergeant Theodore Vollten, of the Montgomery County police, Gill made a statement after his arrest, admitting he had assaulted the women and also robbed them of their pocketbooks.

—Police Court Judge—

MOBS MENACE NEGRO HELD AFTER SLAYING

Woman Taken From Car, Beaten to Death

BALTIMORE, April 1.—(AP)—A killer dragged Mrs. Mary Guther, 55, mother of nine children, from her automobile and left her dead today in a wooded spot near her home.

Two negroes, heavily guarded against mobs, were questioned. A little later, an emergency police car rushed one, a 22-year-old man, to a Baltimore jail under a guard of six officers.

Mrs. Gunther was discovered beaten, slashed and gagged shortly after she drove her husband, Herman, to his work as master shipwright at the Curtis Bay Coast Guard depot.

Her son, William, 28, going to his parents' home to borrow their automobile, came upon the car, one wheel in a ditch, in a narrow lane leading to the Gunther farm.

He began a search and found his mother's body in a clump of scrub pines. A workman's cheap glove had been stuffed in her mouths as a rough gag. Her pocketbook, which had contained $20, was found a few feet away, empty.

MOTHER OF 9 IS FOUND SLAIN IN MARYLAND; 2 NEGROES ARE HELD

Woman Brutally Beaten After Taking Her Husband to Work

BALTIMORE, April 1.—(AP)—A killer dragged Mrs. Mary Gunther, 55, mother of nine children, from her automobile and left her dead today in a wooded spot a short distance from her home.

Two negroes, heavily guarded against mob attacks, were questioned in connection with the killing. A little later, an emergency police car rushed one, a 22-year-old man, to a Baltimore jail under a guard of six officers.

Miss Elizabeth Gunther identified the suspect, Irving Howard, as a negro she saw lurking by the roadside as she and her mother drove her father to work early in the morning.

Police announced stained clothing belonging to Howard had been submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They said they also had found in his pocket a knife with a stained blade.

The negro denied any knowledge of the crime.

Mrs. Gunther was discovered beaten, slashed and gagged shortly after she had taken her husband, Herman, to his work as master shipwright at the Curtis Bay coast guard depot.

Her son William, 28, came upon the car, one wheel in a ditch, in a lane leading to the Gunther farm.

He found his mother's body in a clump of scrub pines. A workman's cheap glove had been stuffed in her mouth as a rough gag.

Two miles away, a policeman driving along the road saw a negro man he had arrested previously on various charges. Later, he took the negro to the scene of the murder for questioning.

Police handcuffed the negro in a police patrol wagon and placed the blanket-wrapped body of the woman in the wagon, at the feet of the negro. For an hour he sat above it, impassive, before he was taken to the police station.

'Lynch Him,' Crowd Yells

PHILADELPHIA—Proof that mob rule and lynching can be controlled by police officers was demonstrated here Friday when Albert Johnson, 37, of the 1800 block of Sharswood Street, was rescued by police of that district for an attempted attack on a 16-year-old white girl.

Johnson is alleged to have dragged the girl into an alley on Gratz Street near Columbia Avenue.

An angered mob which went to rescue the screaming girl surrounded Johnson, and with cries of "lynch him!" attempted to take the law into their hands, but police pushed their way through the mob, arrested Johnson, and took him to the Nineteenth and Oxford Streets police station.

At a hearing before Magistrate Roberts, Saturday, Johnson was held under $10,000 bail.

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

Michigan

5522

Sayed From Michigan Mob

Man, 28, Victim of Lynch Threats

DETROIT.—(ANS)—John S. Harris, 28, was brought here by police Sunday night, October 31, for safe keeping after a mob had threatened his life in Taylor Township on the outskirts of the city.

Harris was in court being tried for an attack when an unruly crowd of 40 gathered at the hearing with mutterings of "Let's get him." Police were informed the mob had a rope and a five-gallon can of kerosene in its possession.

One member of the mob was heard to say, "Give him to us. He's forfeited his life. We'll take care of him."

Protected by guards, Harris was brought to Detroit quickly by automobile.

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

Mississippi.

5754

Mob Threatens Wounded Man for Alleged "Insult"

TUPELO, Miss., Jan. 21.—(ANP)—A special detail of heavily armed police stood guard before the hospital all of Sunday night to keep a sputtering mob of 50 to 75 white men from lynching an unnamed Negro who had been shot after allegedly "insulting" a white woman.

The white woman said she found a crudely written note in her automobile asking her to meet the writer Sunday night on a lonely street. She notified Police Chief E. E. Carr, who arranged for the woman to go to the designated spot in her car. As she sat there, apparently alone, the officer said a Negro approached the machine, insulted the woman, and was shot when he ran instead of halting at a command. He is not expected to live.

TWO CONFESS SHOOTING

Negro Shielded From Mob Threat —Victim's Condition Critical

GULFPORT, Miss., March 23. — P. L. Hobson, resident of the Pineville community, who was shot and seriously wounded by a negro whom he surprised in his chicken house last Saturday night, today had a "fair" chance for recovery, attending physicians said.

George Hudson and Frank Jackson, negroes, arrested in connection with the shooting, were rushed by county officers early yesterday to an unannounced jail following reports of threatened mob violence.

Both negroes, officers said, admitted having been in the chicken house when Hobson came upon them, but each accused the other of having fired upon the man. They are being held without bail on charges of burglary and shooting with intent to kill.

Rolling Fork, Miss. Pilot
April 9, 1937

YAZOO NEGRO RUSHED TO UNREVEALED JAIL

TRYS TO SEIZE WHITE CHILD

The 42-Year-Old Negro Man Later Attacked the Constable When He Sought To Arrest Him

Yazoo City, Miss., Aprsl 8.—A. T. Archer, 42-year-old negro, was rushed to an unannounced jail today because of high feeling here against the suspect whom Constable H. T. Hinson of Bentonia said attempted to seize a white child waiting for a school bus early this week, and attacked the constable when he sought to arrest him.

Hinson said the child's screams frightened the negro away. The matter was reported to Hinson, and accompanied by Jim Warnock, Bentonia citizen, he went to the negro's home to arrest him.

Hinson said that after placing handcuffs on the negro, he began to struggle, and sought to attack him. Warnock, it was reported, entered the affray and fired his pistol at the negro. The bullet struck the constable in the hand. The negro was later subdued and carried to an unnamed jail for safe keeping.

MOBS HINDERING HUNT IN SLAYING

Negro Held As Accomplice In White Man's Murder Is Threatened

By United Press.

NATCHEZ, Miss., Oct. 14.—Officials pushed their search today for Mose (Tee Boo) Ross, 32-year-old Negro charged with killing a white man, while another Negro suspect was held in Hinds County Jail in Jackson, Miss., after Sheriff A. B. Conner spirited him away from an angry mob of men.

Conner said he talked the mob out of lynch violence late Tuesday night when they stormed Adams County Jail here and demanded that he turn Scott Pruiett, 37-year-old Negro, over to them.

He complained that mob action continued to hinder officials investigating the killing of Francis Strain, 23-year-old white man employed at a box factory where both Ross and Pruiett worked.

Ross, a diminutive, cork-footed Negro, allegedly shot Strain three times following an argument. Pruiett denied a report that he held Strain during the shooting.

Sheriff Conner said persons were sniping at innocent Negroes in this vicinity.

Mob Threat In Mississippi As Sheriff Trails Man Accused Of Murder

NATCHEZ, Miss.—(ANP)—Police officials and sheriff's deputies this week were pressing their search for Mose (Tee Boo) Ross, 32, an undersized, cork-footed Negro, wanted in connection with the slaying of a white man. Another suspect in the case, Scott Pruitt, 37, was held in Hinds County jail in Jackson, Miss., after Sheriff Connor had spirited him away from an angry mob.

The sheriff said he talked the mob out of lynch violence Tuesday night when they stormed the Adams jail and demanded that Pruitt be turned over to them. The official said that efforts of the mob to take the law into their own hands is hampering their search for Ross, the alleged slayer of Francis Strain, 23, a box factory employe. Ross is said to have shot Strain three times following an argument. Pruitt denied a report that he had held Strain during the shooting. Sheriff Connor said that feeling is tense throughout the country, and that whites have been sniping at innocent Negroes in the district.

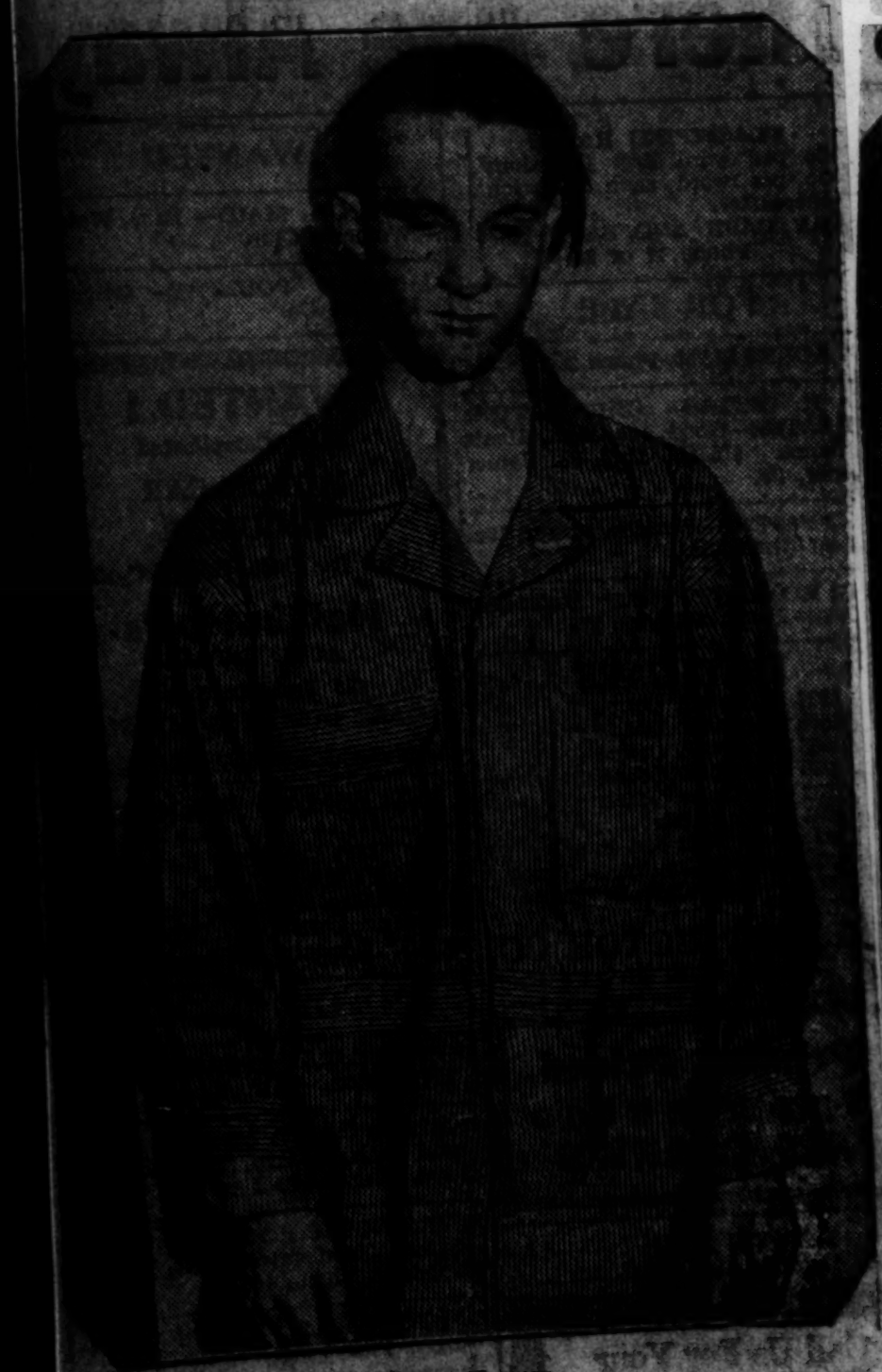
Lynchings-1937
Prevented.

Missouri.

5763

Clarksville, Tenn., Chronicle
February 6, 1937

Guard Kidnaper From Lynching

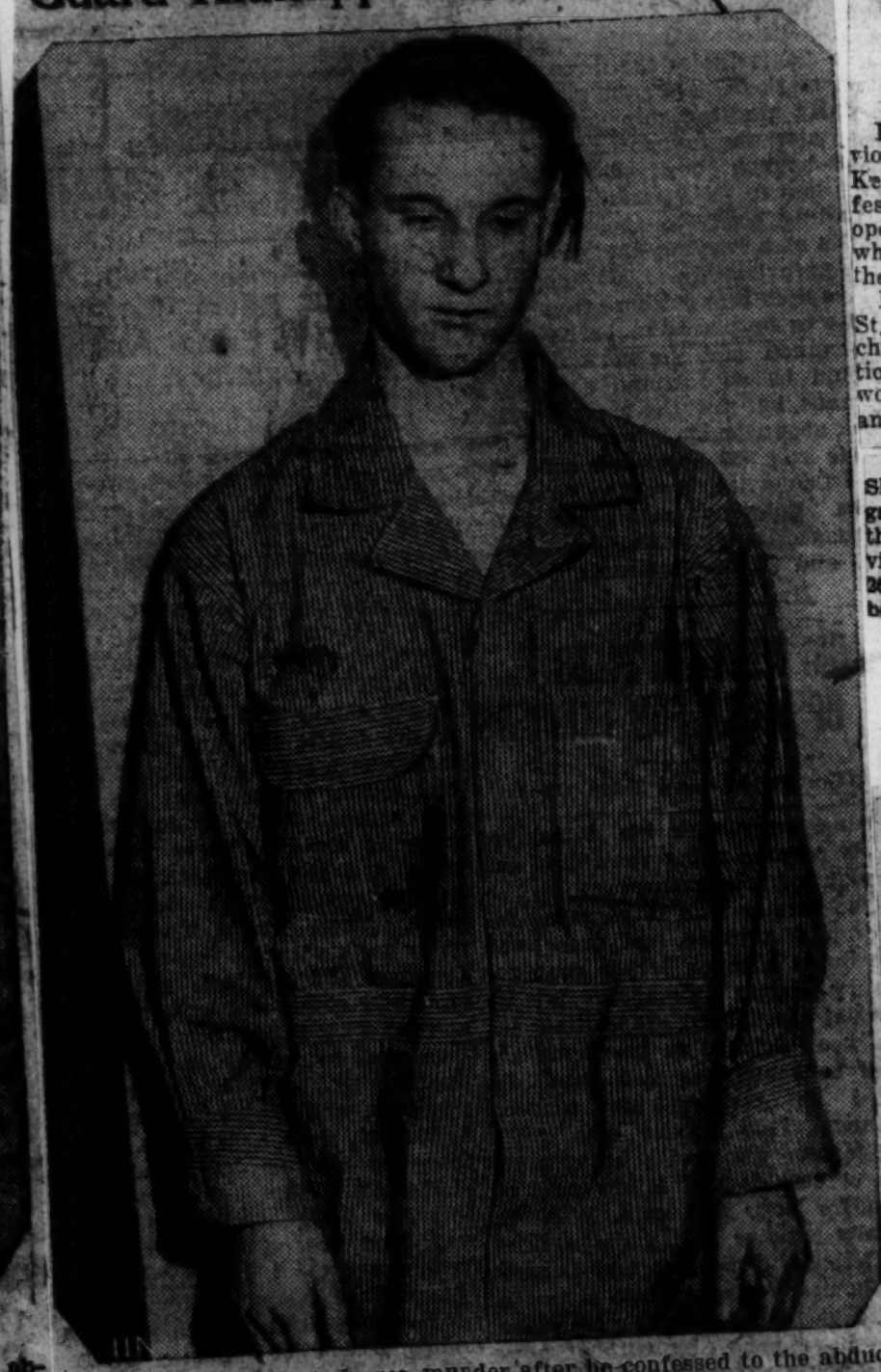


Robert Kenyon

Charged with first degree murder after he confessed to the abduction and slaying of Dr. J. C. B. Davis of Willow Springs, Mo., Robert Kenyon, 20, is held under heavy guard at Kansas City to prevent any possible lynching attempt. Emotionless and indifferent, the pasty-faced farm boy led his captors to a wooded spot near Willow Springs where the bullet-riddled body of the 67-year-old physician lay, a check book clutched in his hand, suggesting that he had tried to the last to buy his freedom from the youth and ruthless kidnaper.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
February 8, 1937

Guard Kidnapper From Lynching



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Jail Cell Saves Man from Mob In Kansas

KANSAS CITY.— Fearing mob violence, police rushed Leonard Kelley, 31, ex-convict who confessed to killing a filling station operator with a claw hammer while trying to steal some gas, to the safety of a jail cell.

Following his arraignment at St. Joseph, Mo., on the murder charge, police received information that citizens were angry and would attempt to seize the Negro and lynch him.

—Read the Editorials—

COLUMBIA, Mo., Sept. 21.— Sheriff Pleas Wright let two delegations from [illegible] search the county jail [illegible] convince them that Frank [illegible], 26, a Negro accused of assault, had been taken out of town.

Missouri Sheriff Hides Prisoner From Lynch Mob

Coleman. The mob dispersed.
The guilt or innocence of Coleman has not been established. He was arrested (at the home of his mother on identification of the daughter of the aged woman, Mrs. M. A. Rice

COLUMBIA, Mo.—Quick action on the part of Sheriff Pleas Wright [illegible] of Boone county [illegible] lynching here this week. When a mob gathered in search of Frank [illegible] county [illegible] Coleman, 26-year-old man accused of attacking an 86-year-old woman, sheriff Wright had taken his prisoner from beyond the reach of the would-be-lynchers.

He refused to divulge in what jail he had hidden with Coleman. Not that Coleman [illegible] sheriff's [illegible] two companies [illegible] search. Both were reinforced that the jail did not contain

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

North Carolina

5764

Marion, N. C., News
September 9, 1937

National Guard Troops Will Guard Courtroom Monday As Negro Again Goes On Trial

Mistrial Ordered After Attack On Prisoner

JUDGE SPEAKS

Local Officers Feel Troops Will Not Be Needed

Morganton company of 105th engineers of the North Carolina National Guard is under orders from Governor Hoey, issued through Adjutant General Metz, to report to Marion by next Monday morning to prevent any further outbreak in the trial of Mann Smith, negro, accused of criminally assaulting a 13-year-old Marion school girl last March 31.

The orders were issued yesterday following an assault upon the negro defendant in McDowell superior court Tuesday morning by Frank Anderson, 30, Marion plumber, at the suggestion of Judge Felix E. Alley, presiding. Both Judge Alley and Solicitor Clarence O. Ridings talked to Governor Hoey on long distance immediately after the attack on the prisoner.

It was understood that local law enforcement officers felt that national guard troops would not be necessary to insure a peaceful trial of the negro, however, Captain Hatcher, commander of the Morganton National Guard unit, in Marion yesterday, said he was under order to report here Monday with as many men as he considered necessary to handle the situation. He said, likely, he would bring at least four squads of eight men each and sufficient non-commissioned officers to command the men as well as his two lieutenants.

TEXT OF JUDGE'S TALK ON PAGE 6

Complete text of Judge Felix E. Alley's address to the courtroom following the assault upon Mann Smith, as recorded by Mrs. D. B. Smith, of Morganton, court reporter, appears on Page 6.

Assailant Jailed

Anderson, the alleged assailant of the negro prisoner, was lodged in jail Tuesday immediately after he had struck the negro with an iron pipe. True bills indicting him for assault with a deadly weapon and obstructing justice were returned by the grand jury yesterday. In addition he faces possible fine or imprisonment for contempt of court.

The prisoner was seated between his attorneys immediately inside the bar, near the aisle. Anderson calmly and deliberately walked to a point behind the negro, raised his weapon and struck the negro, a glancing blow not hard enough to break the skin on the back of the negro's head.

"Grab that man—protect the prisoner," Judge Alley ordered from the bench as Sheriff Grady Nichols made a lunge for the prisoner's assailant.

The negro was knocked under the attorney's table. A deputy sheriff reached for the prisoner as Sheriff Nichols ordered "get the negro."

Judge Speaks

A scathing attack on Anderson was delivered from the bench by Judge Alley immediately after the incident. He assured the crowded courtroom that he will see that justice is administered "according to the way it is written in the law."

He termed the incident "the greatest disgrace that could befall McDowell county," and then adjourned court until 2 o'clock.

Six jurors from a special venire of 100 McDowell county men had been selected when the attack on the prisoner took place. Judge Alley then ordered a mistrial, directed the sheriff to summons another special venire of 100 men and set the trial for 9:30 o'clock next Monday morning when another set of regular jurors will be called.

John Anderson, negro of Old Fort, is among the regular jurors summoned for the term beginning next Monday. He is the first negro to be summoned for jury duty in McDowell county since Reconstruction days.

Judge Alley and Solicitor C. O. Riddings conferred immediately with Gov. Hoey by telephone and received a promise from the governor to send troops or a state highway patrol unit to Marion Monday.

News of the incident spread rapidly throughout the business section and the courtroom was filled to capacity when court reconvened. Judge Alley spoke again from the bench, assuring the spectators that there would be no mob violence and justice would be done.

Sanford, N. C., Herald
September 15, 1937

PATROLMEN AT NEGRO'S TRIAL

Ten highway patrolmen are on guard in Marion while Mann Smith, a negro, gets another trial on a charge of assaulting a 13-year-old white girl. They are present to prevent a recurrence of the violence that erupted last week when a mistrial was caused after one of the courtroom audience struck the negro on his head with an iron pipe.

A packed crowd listened to the little girl in the opening session of the court as she recited a sordid tale of being accosted in the woods as she walked home from school. It listened raptly as a web of evidence entangled Smith, a shaggy negro who sees no escape.

It is unfortunate that the courts of North Carolina cannot proceed without violence under the nose of the bar. The crime for which the negro is charged is one which subjected a little girl to horror. She will never forget it. But as long as this state is to live, it must not forget that its courts are capable of meeting out punishment. Striking a defenseless negro as he sits in the protection of the court is almost as brutal as the crime for which he is charged.

LYNCHINGS - 1 9 3 7 NORTH CAROLINA

PREVENTED

5765

From Mrs. Ames' Report

May 31. Marion, McDowell County
Two white men from Rutherford County held in jail at Marion for attacking a white girl.
(No further report on this).

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

North Carolina.

5766

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 5, 1937

Negro Held In Poisoning Moved After Mob Threat

LUMBERTON, Feb. 4.—(AP)—Robeson county officers took LeRoy McNeill, negro held in connection with the poisoning of Mrs. Andrew Cox of Orrum, to an unannounced destination when a crowd of armed men gathered here last night for the inquest.

Mrs. Cox died at a hospital here Tuesday from eating a poison placed in flour. Officers said McNeill admitted placing the poison in the flour. He gave no reason for his action.

Approximately 50 armed men were gathered on the street here last night. Coroner D. W. Biggs postponed the inquest indefinitely.

Mrs. Cox, her husband, and two of their children were rushed to the hospital here after becoming seriously ill. Cox and the two children showed improvement from treatment and were reported virtually out of danger today.

Suspicion was turned on McNeill when the family reported that he refused to eat biscuits served the day the family became sick but asked for some left over from the day before.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
April 3, 1937

Lynching Averted.

It has just been demonstrated in two North Carolina counties—McDowell and Scotland—that efficient and courageous local officers can protect prisoners from mobs, avert lynchings, and afford the law the opportunity of taking its due course.

A mob, evidently bent on staging a lynching, gathered near the jail in Marion, but Sheriff Grady Nichols, of McDowell county, having apprehended the young negro who waylaid and assaulted a 13-year-old white girl on her way home from school did not take him to the jail in his county but hurried him instead to Asheville where the prisoner was lodged in the Buncombe county jail.

A dispatch from Laurinburg says Scotland county's record of never having the discredit of the lynching of a negro was saved by sheriff's officers last night near Laurel Hill when a mob of negroes sought to catch and lynch a member of their own race for rape of a negro girl."

These instances are of peculiar significance just now at a time when the Congress is again preparing to consider enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

All of the states now have laws that make lynching a crime. If the officers of the states would do their duty promptly, courageously and intelligently, as the officers in McDowell and Scotland counties, North Carolina, have done there would be no excuse for agitating a federal law to cover that which is already amply covered by law in all of the states.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
April 2, 1937

OFFICERS AVERT NEGRO LYNCHING

Assaulter of Negro Girls Shot Down and Captured in Scotland

Laurinburg, April 1.—Scotland County's record of never having the discredit of the lynching of a Negro was saved by sheriff's officers last night near Laurel Hill, when a mob of Negroes sought to catch and lynch a member of their own race for rape of a Negro girl.

Deputy Sheriff Todd and Policemen Dunlap and Gibson with Corporal L. S. Allen of the Highway patrol stopped the Negroes, who were branshing guns and Todd and Dunlap trailed the man, Robert McLean, 20, Negro, several miles before he was shot down and captured in the darkness. After he was shot in both legs the officers still had to trail him by blood stains for some time before he surrendered.

The man, an ex-convict, "chicken thief," was believed to be sex crazy.

Sheriff W. D. Reynolds and force had been searching since Tuesday for a man of his description who robbed a Negro school teacher, Sarah P. Patrick, of a watch she valued at $40 and attempted to ravish her. Later a report came that a second Negro girl had been attacked yesterday. The third was Pauline Bostick, about 15, with whom he succeeded.

The prisoner was placed in the hospital here later to be tried for his life.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
April 2, 1937

Scotland Negroes Prevented From Lynching Member Of Their Own Race

Negro Man, Charged With Three Attacks On Women of His Race, Captured by Police.

Laurinburg, April 2.—Scotland county's record of never having experienced the lynching of a negro, possibly was saved by sheriff's officers near Laurel Hill when a mob or negroes sought to catch a member of their own race charged with criminal assault on a negro girl.

Deputy Sheriff Todd and Policemen Dunlap and Gibson, with Corp. L. S. Allen, of the highway patrol, stopped the negroes who were brandishing guns, and Todd and Dunlap trailed the man, Robert McLean, 20 negro, several miles before he was shot down and captured in the darkness. After he was shot in both legs the officers still had to trail him by blood stains for some time before he surrendered.

Sheriff W. D. Reynolds and force had been searching since Tuesday for a man who robbed a negro school teacher and attempted to assault her. Later a report came that a negro girl had been attacked Wednesday.

The prisoner was placed in the hospital here.

Hamlet, N. C., News-Messenger
April 8, 1937

Officers Avert Negro Lynching

Scotland County's record of never having the discredit of the lynching of a negro was saved by sheriff's officers last week near Laurel Hill, when a mob of negroes sought to catch and lynch a member of their own race for rape of a negro girl.

Officers stopped the negroes, who were brandishing guns and trailed the man, Robert McLean, 20, negro, several miles before he was shot down and captured in the darkness. After he was shot in both legs the officers still had to trail him by blood stains before he surrendered.

The man, an ex-convict, and chicken thief, was believed to be sex crazy.

Sheriff W. D. Reynolds and force had been searching since Tuesday for a man of his description, who robbed a negro school teacher of a watch she valued at $40 and attempted to ravish her. Later a report came that a second negro girl had been attacked. The third was Pauline Bostick, about 15 with whom he succeeded.

The prisoner was placed in the hospital in Laurinburg to be tried later for his life.

Charlotte, N. C., News
April 2, 1937

Negro Saved After Lynching Threat

Laurinburg, April 2.—(AP)—Robert McLean, 20-year-old negro, was in jail here today in connection with the alleged attempted assault of a member of his own race after, Sheriff W. D. Reynolds said, a party of negroes sought to take him in charge last night.

The sheriff said he arrested McLean near Laurel Hill last night after other officers halted a band of negroes who were brandishing guns.

LYNCHING GANG IS FOILED

Times
8-3-37

Crowd at North Carolina Jail Finds Prisoner Is Gone

STATESVILLE, N. C., Aug. 2 (AP).—A crowd of white men rode into Statesville in thirty automobiles early today, surrounded the county jail and demanded that Sheriff John Moore turn over a Negro prisoner.

The crowd, however, disbanded after Sheriff Moore took three of the men inside the jail and convinced them that the prisoner, Preach Caldwell, 35, charged with attacking a white woman near Mooresville Saturday, was not there.

The Negro was rushed from Mooresville after his arrest Saturday and taken to an undisclosed jail as a precautionary measure. Sheriff Moore estimated there were 125 men in the crowd which surrounded the jail.

Sheriff Saves Prisoner; Keeps N. C. County's Lynch Record Clean

Colored Citizens Seek Life of Alleged Rapist of Pretty Race Girl.

LAURINBURG, N. C., April 8—(ANP)—The usual procedure in lynching was reversed here last Wednesday and Scotland county's "no-lynch" record was kept clean when sheriff's officers saved a colored man near Laurel Hill from an infuriated mob of Negroes bent on lynching the man for rape attack on a pretty colored girl.

Deputy Sheriff Todd, Policeman Dunlay, and Officers and Corporal H. B. Allen of the Highway patrol stopped the man, trailed the suspect, Robert McLean, 20, and finally captured him after a chase of two miles and after shooting him in both legs.

Sheriff W. D. Reynolds and staff had been searching for a man of the prisoner's description who had robbed a colored school teacher near Wagram, and had attempted an assault on her. This was followed last week by another report that a colored girl had been attacked. The third victim was a 15-year-old colored girl, raped by two men and followed immediately by the lynching of the mob leader was placed by the officers in a hospital here, and after recovering from the bullet wounds in the leg by them, will be placed on trial for his life.

TAKES TRIO FROM N. C. COUNTY JAIL FOILS ANGRY MOB

KINSTON, N. C. — Two brothers, Sylvester and Apsom Outlaw, and their brother-in-law, Lonnie Gardner, were being held last week in an undisclosed jail after being spirited away from the Pine Hill section near here where they are alleged to have accosted an 18-year-old white girl and her male companion and at the point of a gun committed "the usual crime" on the person of the girl.

Sentiment in the neighborhood of the heinous alleged crime mounted so rapidly that he thought it best to remove the prisoners to a place of safer keeping, Sheriff D. S. Williamson said here after making the arrests public. The Negroes, he said, accosted the girl and her escort, James Suggs, 22, on a lonely road of the Pine Hill section.

It is not known whether or not the accused men have pleaded guilty to the crime as the sheriff did not disclosee the jail to which he had taken them.

Greensboro Daily News
Sept. 3, 1937

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.

What Sheriff John White Moore, of Iredell county, might have done had he actually had the prisoner, desired by the 125 members of a mob when they surrounded the jail in Statesville early Monday morning, remains happily a matter for speculation because of steps that he had already taken to protect his man.

What he did do was to take three members of the group bent on taking the law into their own hands, into the jail and show them that the negro they were after was not there; already in the abundance of precaution had been removed to an undisclosed jail after the commission of a heinous crime which was calculated to incite public indignation.

North Carolina, and especially the would-be mobsters, owe to Sheriff Moore a heavy debt of gratitude for the use of common sense in his ounce of prevention as contrasted to any belated display of valor on his part or on the part of the state highway patrol which was mobilized and on its way, used to prevent another lynching, actual or attempted, from marring the state's record.

Greensboro Daily News

GOOD FOR PENDER.

Our manners to the sheriff of Pender county who carried a negro charged with attempted assault on a white woman to Wilmington for safe keeping. Not for that Wilmington is the home of the solicitor of the district, J. J. Burney, who to our notion is a trifle too sympathetic with the pranking of his rural constituents; but Burgaw has hitherto not proved itself wholly regardful of the proprieties in the matter of insuring a fair trial, to accused persons.

No, we aren't at this time going to repeat our question of whether Governor Ehringhaus ever got any sort of report of the investigation he ordered into the lynching of Dock Rogers at Burgaw. We don't believe he ever did. But it is comforting to realize that there is somebody in authority there now who wishes to avoid a recurrence of mob violence.

Sept. 3, 1937

GOVERNOR STANDS BY ORDER FOR SOLDIERS

Greensboro Daily News

Hoey Declines Request of McDowell Officials to Rescind Action to Protect Negro.

Sept 11

(Special to Daily News) 1937

Winston-Salem, Sept. 10.—Governor Hoey left tonight for Raleigh without finding it possible to rescind his recent order sending troops to McDowell county Monday morning to protect Hiawatha Mann Smith, 15-year-old negro, who will be tried for capital felony against a 13-year-old white girl.

Governor Hoey gave the order for the militia on request of Judge Felix Alley, who is to preside over the Marion court. The sheriff, Solicitor Rydings, Special Prosecutor Dennison F. Giles and other McDowell men begged his excellency not to send soldiers up there. McDowell feels that it has had more than its share of military government. But Judge Alley stands pat and Governor Hoey follows the judge. His honor, man of the mountains, sees trouble ahead without the soldiers.

Interesting law points are raised, but nobody big enough to overrule the judge has arisen. There will be another long distance conference with Governor Hoey tomorrow.

KNOW THEIR DUTY

Aug 23, 1937

North Carolina, by the grace of a kind providence and some astuteness of its officers, has avoided for the better part of two years getting into the column of states where mob rule has occurred. We are not bragging. Heaven knows it was in all too recent memory that our little page in history was so blotted. Nor is it seemly, we think, to jump up and shout our hurrahs and "We didn't have a lynching" every time a despicable crime is committed.

8-23-37

But we do believe it in place to commend local officers in two eastern Carolina communities for their recent handling of prisoners where violence might otherwise have [illegible].

It was in Bladen county that they brought [illegible] that a mob had already caught and dispatched Odell Hadley, a negro whom a big posse of citizens was hunting in a swamp for a heinous offense. The account was incorrect. Sheriff H. M. Clark, assisted by seven deputies, arrested the negro and had him in a safe jail before the rumors of a lynching had died down. Three negro men near Kinston have just been incarcerated in the central prison at Raleigh for their alleged crime against a young white woman, in whose community sentiment was reported to be growing ugly. An estimated 1,000 persons had participated in the search for these negroes.

There may have been no cause for great worry. Maybe the searching crowds were not as angry as represented. But at least it is comforting to observe that we have on the job officers who recognize their duty and know how to perform it quickly.

Lynchings - 1937
Prevented

Ohio

5767

MOB SPIRIT RISES IN OHIO TOWN AS 200 SEARCH JAIL

CLEVELAND, Oct. 14—(By Clarence L. Simmons for ANP)—Apparently, the mob spirit from the depths of the lower South has reached its long terrifying arm to the shores of this state as was evidenced here Monday when more than 200 angry and blood-thirsty citizens of Dover, a stone's throw from Cleveland, sought to apprehend Vandy Lee Matthews, 19, of Dover, and lynch him in connection with an attack on Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Lantzer, Sunday.

The 19-year-old youth was rushed to Cleveland and turned over to the authorities of Cuyahoga County jail for safekeeping. He was brought in about [illegible] p.m. Tuesday, but no one seems to be clear on the point of who brought him to the jail. The deputies claim that they had no idea how long he would be kept and what charge would be made.

Police Chief Frank H. Javens charges Matthews with shooting to wound, assault and battery, and criminal attack on the Forrests. Javens could not be reached but subordinates said they believed he was working on the "Matthews' case."

Monday night, the 200 citizens and residents of Dover obtained permission to inspect Tuscarawas County jail at New Philadelphia, Harrison County jail at Cadiz, and the Dover City jail in their hunt for Matthews, who had been arrested in nearby Mineral City.

Mob Spirit Raises Head In Ohio Town

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The 19-year-old youth was rushed to Cleveland and lodged in the Cuyahoga county jail for safekeeping. The deputies claim that they had no idea how long he would be kept and what charge would be made.

Police Chief Frank H. Javens charges Matthews with shooting to wound, assault and battery, and criminal attack on the Forrests. Javens could not be reached but subordinates said they believed he was working on the "Matthews' case."

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Lynchings - 1937
Prevented

Pennsylvania.

5768

Girl, 11, Assaulted, Body Put In Well

Pennsylvania Father, 37, Held For Questioning

GREENSBURG, PENN., Oct. 7.—(AP)—State motor policemen questioned a 37-year-old father of two tonight about the slaying of his 11-year-old cousin, Vallie Bates, whose body was taken from an abandoned mine air shaft near Latrobe.

Harry Bates, who lived alone in a tar-papered house on the outskirts of the Allegheny Mountain town, told police he had attempted to attack the child, struck her over the head and slashed her throat with a paring knife, said Sergeant James Buckley.

Bates led state motor police to the mine shaft in the early morning darkness.

The girl's body was found wrapped in a burlap bag, 150 feet down the bottom of the shaft.

Bates, a brick worker, was removed from the Latrobe Borough jail to the state motor police barracks at Greensburg after scores of neighbors and townsfolk massed about the little jail building.

While no charge has been placed against him, Bates was quoted by Captain Jacob Mauk of the state police as saying he attempted to attack the girl after she returned from an errand at the neighboring store.

As she began to regain consciousness, Bates was quoted by the officer as saying, he cut her throat, then poured kerosene over her clothing and threw it under the porch.

Later he wrapped the body in a burlap bag and carried it to the mine shaft on the Frank Brinker farm, Mauk stated.

South Carolina.

Lynchings - 1937
Prevented

5769

S. C. Lynching Is Thwarted

Mob Heeds Pleas to Let Law Take Course

1-15-37

FLORENCE, S. C.—(ANS)—The pleas of two white men, one a sheriff and the other the father of his alleged victim, saved Isaac Scott, 30, from lynching here Monday, January [illegible].

Scott was seized from two deputy sheriffs by a mob of white men. He had been arrested on a charge of attempted criminal assault.

Hearing that the mob had seized Scott, the father of the woman whom Scott was accused of trying to attack, plead with the would-be lynchers to let the law take its course. Sheriff W. R. Wall joined the father in asking the mob to release Scott.

The mob heeded the pleas and turned Scott back over to the sheriffs.

Carolina Mob Gives Up Negro Without Lynching

FLORENCE, S. C. — An angry mob took Isaac Scott, 30-year-old Negro from two deputies after he had been arrested on a charge of attempted criminal assault on a white woman Sunday, but made no attempt to lynch him, believe it or not.

Sheriff W. R. Wall said that the father of the young woman whom the Negro was accused of molesting, joined him in pleas to the mob to let the law take its course, and they released the captive who was immediately placed in the jail here for safe-keeping.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
January 14, 1937

SENSIBLE "MOB."

Anderson Independent

A story from Florence county says that a "mob" captured a negro, charged with attempted assault, and instead of tying him to the nearest tree, gave him up to the officers without a fight.

There must have been several sane persons in that "mob." From news dispatches describing the incident it seems that the crowd was not a "mob" in the meaning usually attached to that word.

A black mark against Florence county and South Carolina could have been chalked up by that crowd if men had it not been for reason overcoming anger. As it is, the negro may expect to get proper punishment when his case comes before a jury.

Paradoxically, Florence county has produced a sensible "mob."

Man Charged With Assault on White School Teacher Saved From Carolina Lynch Mob

FLORENCE, S. C.—(ANP)—Taken from two deputy sheriffs by an angry mob, Isaac Scott, 30, was saved from lynching by the deputies who returned to town, got Sheriff W. R. Wall, and talked the mob into releasing their prisoner so the "law could take its course."

Scott was charged with attempted assault on a white school teacher. He was arrested at Olanta and a few minutes later "taken" from two deputy sheriffs and placed in the town jail "for investigation." No attempts to kill him had actually been made when the officers drove here, got the sheriff, and returned to Olanta. The father of the alleged victim helped persuade the mob to leave Scott back to the officers.

Scott said he was drunk and did not know where he was when he entered the woman's boarding house and crept into her bed, according to police. He was frightened away by her screams. The woman was not harmed.

Conway, S. C., Field
December 16, 1937

NEGRO SPIRITED OUT OF TOWN FOLLOWING TALK OF LYNCHING

John Jones Carried to Another County by Officers After White Youth Is Injured

Struck over the head by a Negro farm hand during an altercation late Saturday, John Henry Martin, 21 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Babe Martin of near Jordanville, received injuries which have kept him in a very grave condition in Conway hospital for several days.

His alleged assailant, John Jones, 30-year-old Negro, is in jail in another county, having been spirited out of Conway after mass feeling over the incident is said to have caused talk of a lynching and made Sheriff W. E. Sessions fear mob violence.

According to the sheriff, no charge has yet been lodged against the Negro because of the seriousness of Martin's condition. He is being held in jail in another county pending the outcome of the white man's condition and no information is being given out by the sheriff's office as to where he is held.

Jones, who enjoys a particularly unsavory reputation with the local police, was arrested by Chief of Police Tim Johnson in a colored business establishment said to be known as "Judy's" place. It is operated by a Negro woman by the name of Duett.

According to reports of the affair, Jones approached Chief Johnson Saturday afternoon and told him that he'd had an argument with young Martin and his father. He said that there had been a fight, but did not give a very detailed account of what had happened.

Chief Johnson, who was familiar with Jones' general reputation, did not, at that time, place much importance upon the news of the affair.

Upon investigation of the report Chief Johnson learned of the seriousness of Martin's injuries and started out in immediate search of the Negro. Finding him in the Duett woman's place of business he was promptly placed under arrest.

Following his arrest, Jones was turned over to the county authorities who later placed him in an automobile and carried him out of the county as news of the incident spread and threats against the Negro's life were said to have been voiced in public.

According to members of the local police department, Jones has been arrested here numerous times and only three weeks ago was locked up under a charge of being drunk and disorderly.

Dr. J. A. Sasser is attending young Martin in the hospital here, and according to reports issued at the institution late yesterday his condition remains unchanged. There has been some improvement noted since the hour of his admission to the hospital, but owing to the serious nature of his injuries, considerable fear has been expressed for his life. He is permitted no visitors whatever.

5769

South Dakota.

Lynchings - 1937
Prevented

5770

BOYS HELD IN MURDER ARE HEAVILY GUARDED

Violence Feared Over Slaying In South Dakota

PIERRE, S. D., May 22.—(AP)—Two Chicago youths accused of slaying a woman school teacher who befriended them were placed under heavy guard here as a precaution against possible mob violence.

Sheriff Jack Reedy of Sully County hurriedly removed the youths from the jail at Onita last night because "feeling is running high" there. The sheriff said the slaying had caused much excitement.

Assistant State Attorney General Ellsworth Evans said the pair, Norman Westberg, 17, and Howard Christensen, 16, confessed fatally shooting and robbing Miss Ada Carey, 26, of Blunt, S. D.

Miss Carey was driving to her home after completing her year's work at Frankfort, S. D., when the boys asked for a ride. She identified her assailants shortly before her death a few hours after the attack.

Evans said the youths confessed they were motivated by a desire to get the teacher's money and car so they might continue a trip to California.

Lynchings-1937
Prevented

Tennessee

5771

Foils Mob, Rushes Prisoner To Jail In Memphis, Tenn.

MEMPHIS— (ANP)— Following the arrest Saturday night in Covington, Tennessee of Albert Gooden, in connection with the slaying of City Marshal Chester Doyle, Sheriff Will Vaughn of Tipton County learned a mob was headed for Covington jail bent on violence. He immediately smuggled Gooden out of the city, brought him to Memphis, and lodged him in the mob-proof county jail.

Sheriff Vaughn said Doyle and a colored man, Jack Bolton, 24, were shot and killed Saturday night during a raid in a 'gambling joint.' "Ten carloads of white men drove to the Covington jail for Gooden shortly after I left," he said. "They wanted Gooden, but they didn't get him. He will remain in Memphis for safekeeping."

Sheriff Foils Mob And Rushes Prisoner To Memphis Jail

Ten Carloads of White Men Frustrated After City Marshal Is Slain In "Gambling Joint."

MEMPHIS, July 29— (ANP)—Following the arrest Saturday night in Covington, Tenn., of Albert Gooden, in connection with the slaying of City Marshal Chester Doyle, Sheriff Will Vaughn of Tipton county learned a mob was headed for Covington jail bent on violence. He immediately smuggled Gooden out of the city, brought him to Memphis, and lodged him in the mob-proof county jail.

Sheriff Vaughn said Doyle and a colored man, Jack Bolton, 24, were shot and killed Saturday night during a raid in a "gambling joint." "Ten carloads of white men drove to the Covington jail for Gooden shortly after I left," he said. "They wanted Gooden, but they didn't get him. He will remain in Memphis for safekeeping."

dition today with a severe scalp wound necessitating 14 stitches and a cut on her hand that required seven stitches.

She told Sheriff Barton the Negro removed a pistol from under her pillow and beat her with it when she fought him from her bed and screamed.

The Negro fled and Mrs. Messick, afraid to leave the house for several hours, finally made her way to a neighbor's home and called the sheriff.

MOB THREATENS TO LYNCH NEGRO

Youth Charged With Trying To Criminally Assault Tennessee Woman

11-15-37

By United Press.

MANCHESTER, Tenn., Nov. 15.—Bob Robertson, 21-year-old Negro charged with attacking a Beech Grove woman, was secreted from an angry mob today by Sheriff J. A. Barton.

Barton would not reveal where he had taken Robertson but said he transferred him to jail in another county when Beech Grove residents filtered into town and threatened mob violence.

The sheriff said Mrs. Gertrude Messick, 500-year-old widow, identified Robertson as the Negro who entered her home by removing a window and attempted to assault her criminally.

Mrs. Messick was in serious con-

Tennessee

Lynchings - 1937
6
Prevented

5772

Escapes Wrath Of Mob, But Gets 21 Years In 'Pen' In 3-Hour Trial

MANCHESTER, Tenn., Dec. 2—(Special)—Hodge Robertson, 27, was indicted and, following his entering of a plea of guilty, convicted and sentenced to 21 years in the penitentiary in Circuit Court here this week, all within three hours—after a mob had previously gone to the jail and demanded the prisoner be turned over its members, only to [illegible] had been taken elsewhere for safekeeping pending trial. Robertson was charged with attempting to criminally attack a white woman, also with burglary and larceny in connection with the alleged looting of a small store operated by the woman a few miles from this city.

On the day before the trial, according to Sheriff J. A. Barton, a group of some 15 or 20 men appeared at the jail while he was absent, and apparently unaware that Robertson was being held elsewhere, demanded that his, the sheriff's wife, surrender the prisoner to them. They were told, he said, that Robertson was not there, but refused to leave until a deputy took two of their number through the jail to assure them of the truth of the statement.

LYNCHINGS - 1 9 3 7
PREVENTED

TEXAS

5774

From Mrs. Ames' Report

March 17. Henderson, Rusk Co. (Negro)
Killed Jefferson County Sheriff-
Carried to Henderson for safekeeping.

October 13. Nacagdoches. (Negro) Wounded Sheriff
Henry Cook. Brought to Angelina County
jail. (Lufkin, Texas.)

Lynchings – 1937
Prevented

Texas.

5775

WOUNDED SHERIFF DIES

Negro Assailant Moved from Texas County for Safe Keeping

LUBBOCK, Texas, March 22. (AP)—Sheriff F. A. Loyd, 48, of Lamb County, who was shot Saturday while trying to arrest a negro, died today.

Deputy Sheriff Sam Hutson said Leroy Kelly, the Negro, probably would be removed from Lubbock to a jail farther from Lamb County, for safekeeping.

...STING ARREST, ...EGRO KILLS SHERIFF

LUBBOCK, Texas, March 22.—(AP) ...Loyd, ... of Lamb county—who was shot Saturday while trying to arrest a negro, died today.

Deputy Sheriff Sam Hutson said Leroy Kelly, the negro, probably would be removed from Lubbock jail farther from Lamb county, for safe keeping.

NEGRO GETS CHAIR IN SLAYING WHITE SPECIAL OFFICER

Willie Caesar, 41 of ... Campo, was given the death penalty in the criminal courts here Wednesday of this week for the murder of Tip Simpson, white, who was stabbed to death ..., 1936, at an exclusive Negro party at ... Simpson got into a fight after allegedly slapping a colored woman. ... with Negroes were ... Caesar. A mob was formed and the Negroes were rushed to Wharton, then to Bay City and ... Johnson, Minnie Richardson, Samuel Taylor and Juanita Smith.

Texas Constable Foils Lynch Mob

DALLAS—(ANP) — Constable Ogle foiled a lynch mob Monday by the simple expedient of racing away with a prisoner suspected of trying to attack a white woman at a small town near here and brought him to the Dallas county jail. 7-1-37

The prisoner allegedly entered a farm house where a woman and her two young daughters were asleep. The husband and father was away. The mother was seized but got away. The oldest child struck the marauder with a wrench while the other ran for help. The assailant escaped before neighbors arrived.

The unidentified Negro was picked up as the attempted rapist by Ogle, who had been called there. He had to pass the scene on his way back and as he slowed his car, some members of a mob of men yelled to get the Negro. The constable stepped on the gas and outdistanced his pursuers, who gave up the chase on the city's outskirts.

Lynching Mob In Tex. Duped By Law Officer

Constable Races Suspect In White Woman Attack Out Of Town

DALLAS, June (ANP)—Constable Ogle foiled a lynch mob Monday by the simple expedient of racing away with a prisoner suspected of trying to attack a white woman at a small town near here and brought him to Dallas county jail.

The prisoner allegedly entered a farm house where a woman and her two young daughters were asleep. The husband and father was away. The mother was seized but got away. The oldest child struck the marauder with a wrench while the other ran for help. The assailant escaped before neighbors arrived.

The unidentified Negro was picked up as the attempted rapist by Ogle, who had been called there. He had to pass the scene on his way back and as he slowed his car, some members of a mob of men yelled to get the Negro. The constable stepped on the gas and outdistanced his pursuers, who gave up the chase on the city's outskirts.

Texas Sheriff Lynch-Minded Mob Into Peaceful Mood

By United Press.

ATHENS, Tex., July 2.—Sheriff Jess Sweeten arose from his chair unstrapped his guns and went out into the courthouse lobby early today to face a mob that came to lynch a confessed Negro rapist.

"Boys," he said, "it's my business to protect my prisoner. I don't want any trouble but I'm going to protect him in case there is any."

That was all. There were 75 men in the lobby, some of them hardened workers from the East Texas oil fields. They wavered a few minutes between their respect for the unarmed but sharp-eyed sheriff, and their fury at the prisoner upstairs who had admitted attempting to assault six of their women.

Nobody made a threatening gesture. The sheriff went back inside.

"I think they're quieted down," he reported to the next telephone caller. 7-2-37

About 1 a. m. the mob began to disperse. The sheriff thought it might be a ruse, so he stayed in his office.

State authorities and police chiefs of neighboring towns called to offer aid. Two highway patrolmen came from Tyler and two more from Dallas. Sweeten thought that was about all the help he would need.

The crowd began gathering shortly before midnight. Sweeten just sat and waited. Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Corley walked through the lobby and the mob struck. The deputy was seized and relieved of his guns. The sheriff had five other deputies in his office but he went out alone to meet the mob.

Texas sheriffs know that it is fatal to be stripped of their guns. Sweeten didn't take a gun. It was a matter of bluffing.

The prisoner is Maceo Smith. He is only 16. He was arrested yesterday after Mrs. Bennie Swinney reported that a young Negro invaded her home while her husband was away, and knocked her unconscious.

CHECK LYNCH MOB

National Guard, Texas Rangers Ring Dixie Jail

MARSHALL, Tex., Sept. 22.—Two National Guard machine-gun squads and several Texas Rangers made up a special guard thrown around the Harrison county courthouse here to shield Harrison Young, rape suspect, from possible mob action. Young is one of two brothers charged with assaulting a white woman.

INTREPID TEXAS SHERIFF DISCARDS GUNS TO FACE MOB

Tells Would-Be Lynchers 'It's My Business To Protect My Prisoner'

(By Defender Staff Writer)

ATHENS, Tex., July 9—(By Wire)—Jess Sweeten made ... a candidate for the Texas Hall of Fame here Friday. And when he hangs up his six-shooter and takes off his spurs for the last time, people in these parts will remember how he handled unarmed, a murder-bent mob of men.

Sheriff Sweeten flung down the gauntlet to a mob of hard-boiled weather-beaten workers from the East Texas oil fields, bent on lynching a 16-year-old boy suspected of attempted assaults on six white women. The mob, a few minutes before, had stripped Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Corley of his guns.

Walks Out

When Corley came into the sheriff's office in the courthouse to excitedly tell how he lost his guns, Sweeten rose from his creaky pine chair and walked out on the steps. A yell went up from the rapidly increasing throng whose lust for blood was fast reaching the explosion stage. They thought the sheriff was out to make a half-hearted plea to them to disperse and then give them the keys to the lockup.

Instead, Sweeten, who had unstrapped his guns and had left them on his desk, threw up his hand for silence.

"Boys," said he slowly, his words biting the sun-baked air like the sound of lariat blows on the side of a recalcitrant steer, "it's my business to protect my prisoner. I don't want any trouble but I'm going to protect him in case there is any." He said no more after that.

Turbulent Scene

A Jack London or a Kipling could have written a volume after that moment when the sheriff spoke. All the forces of evil, of hatred and lust for blood surged to the front and were written in the eyes of the mob members as they wavered a few minutes between their anger at the 16-year-old prisoner upstairs and the sharp-eyed, but unarmed sheriff who stood calmly looking at them.

Not one of the gang made a false move. Sheriff Sweeten finally walked inside.

"I think they're quieted down," he reported to the next telephone caller. "They would have to break down four steel doors to reach him and I don't think they'll try it."

Mob Disperses

About 1 a.m., the mob began to disperse and by dawn all had gone.

State authorities and police chiefs of neighboring towns called to offer aid. Two highway patrolmen came from Tyler and two more from Dallas. Sweeten thought that was about all the help he would need.

The crowd began gathering shortly before midnight. They stood in front of the courthouse and talked in muttered tones. Sweeten just sat and waited. Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Corley walked through the lobby and the mob struck. The deputy was relieved of his guns. He went in to report to Sweeten. The sheriff had five other deputies in his office. He went out alone to meet the mob.

Fatal to Lose Guns

Texas sheriffs know that it is fatal to be stripped of their guns by one angry man or a mob. It gives the other man courage if he can see his foe humiliated that way. So Sweeten didn't take a gun. It was a matter of bluffing.

The prisoner is Maceo Smith. He is only 16. He was arrested Thursday after Mrs. Bennie Swinney reported that a young Race boy invaded her home while her husband was away, and knocked her unconscious.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 4, 1937

A Sheriff And a Mob.

Sheriff Jess Sweeten of Athens, Texas, has given a demonstration of what an officer of the law can do when confronted by a would-be lynching mob. A sixteen-year-old Negro had been lodged in jail at Athens on the charge of attempting to attack a white woman, and a dispatch from the town tells what happened:

Late Thursday night a mob of approximately 100 men swarmed into the little jail lobby, disarmed a Deputy, and then retreated before Sheriff Sweeten, who was unarmed at the time but calmly warned the crowd that he would "get rough" if they tried to take his prisoner. "Boys," the Sheriff told the mobsters, "I've taken an oath to protect my prisoner and I'm going to do it." "We'll be back!" one of them shouted. "There's no need to come back," the Sheriff replied. "You're not going to get him."

The mob has not yet come back. Deputy Sheriffs and State Highway Patrolmen stood armed guard over the jail Friday, but nobody who looked as if he might want to stage a lynching put in an appearance. Although he expressed no apprehension, the Sheriff said he might take the youth to Dallas. Certainly he has indicated quite clearly, and to the satisfaction of the mob which threatened to return, that he will do whatever is necessary to protect his prisoner. If all Sheriffs were like Jess Sweeten there would be no need for a Federal anti-lynching law, and a bill providing for such law would not have been offered in Congress.

Court Guarded From Lynch Mob At Trial of Negro

MARSHALL, Tex., Sept. 21.—Military sentries tonight patrolled the courthouse where Henderson Young, one of two Negro brothers charged with assaulting a white woman, is on trial.

Lynch mobs were reported to be in the vicinity and the County National Guard [illegible] with machine guns in the event of an attempt to remove Young from the courthouse.

Roscoe Young, the other brother, will be tried later.

LIVINGSTON FARMER ACCUSED OF RAPE OF WHITE WOMAN GIVEN DEATH BY JURY

LIVINGSTON.—(Special Staff Correspondent).—With a blank expression on his face, 28-year old Bob White, Livingston tenant farmer, heard himself sentenced to death in the electric chair for criminally assaulting Mrs. Ruby Cochran, white, on the night of August 10. A weary jury, after having wrangled over fate that they knew would be decreed, finally returned a verdict of guilty as charged and assessed the death penalty. Not a murmur was heard in the highly charged court-room as the verdict was read and Defense Attorney J. P. Rogers of Houston asked that the jury be polled. The jury was out one hour and 50 minutes. District Judge W. B. Browder polled the jury, and each juryman answered quickly and loudly in the affirmative. One juror held up for some time, contending that he wanted to hear the complainant's testimony.

Testimony Read to Jury

A court reporter who had gone to bed was aroused and the testimony obtained. With the permission of both state's and defense attorneys the testimony was read. Officers, admittedly afraid of mob violence took White to Houston for safekeeping after the crowd had cleared out of the court room. Defense Attorneys Roland and Rogers of Houston stated that a new trial will be asked and if it is not granted, they would appeal the case to the court of criminal appeals.

Atmosphere Created by Victim

Mrs. Cochran, simply dressed, twisted a handkerchief and allowed shudders to wrack her body and her husband and two sons appeared to be equally grieved She sat within 20 paces of White, 27-year-old Negro worker on one of the Cochran farms, and broke down once, and cried aloud, "Yes, he did it, and I don't see why I have to sit here and face him! Oh, the indecency of it! I don't see how a white man can protect him!"

Denies Confession

White denied having voluntarily made the confession that was taken in Beaumont. Defense Attorneys sought a mistrial, contending that the confession had been beaten out of White by Texas Rangers but Judge Browder over ruled their motion. White says he was handcuffed to a tree and beaten. He also denied everything in the confession but was tripped up when cross examined. Members of White's family, his mother, half brother and half sister, were not crossed examined and contend that White could not have gone to the Cochran home, committed the act and returned in the short length of time he was absent from the house. White, they say, went to the watermelon patch.

Colored Spectators Laughed

Defense attorneys were disgusted with the conduct of the colored spectators who poked fun at every opportunity and were branded as "white folks n——r's". The judge smiled faintly when Alma Thomas, young colored girl testifying for the state, said "I don't know what day of the week it was, but I remembers it was on Tuesday night" and when other spectators laughed, he rapped loudly for order. White was heavily guarded as he was being transported from Livingston to Houston. About ten car-loads of officers were in the motorcade.

Texas Youths Guarded From Mob Violence By U.S. Men

MARSHALL, Texas— (A N P)—Protected from possible mob violence by the bayoneted of the steel helmeted Texas National guard, Henderson and Roscoe Young, two colored youths of 18 and 19, heard District Judge W. H. Strength sentence them to death in separate trials Tuesday and Thursday after an all white jury deliberated eight minutes on the younger youth on Thursday for the alleged robbery-assault on a white Longview, Texas, couple, August 22.

Still protected by the crack Texas rangers the frightened youths were sped to unannounced jails for safekeeping after the nasty trials. Earlier in the case defense attorneys filed a motion to have Henderson Young tried in juvenile court because he was under 17 but the judge ruled his age as 18. Both boys were residents of Gregg county.

Lynchings- 1937
Prevented

Virginia
6

5773

Sheriff Denies Princess Anne County Attack Suspect Moved To City Jail Because Of Ill Feeling

To Face Trial In County Circuit Court On February After Motion For Change Of Venue Is Overruled

Lewis Napoleon Riddick, 19-year-old Princess Anne County youth will stand trial in the Circuit Court of that county on Monday, February 8 on a charge of attempted criminal assault upon a white married woman on the premise that he can obtain a "fair and impartial" trial in the county.

His motion for a change of venue was overruled last week by Judge B. D. White on the claim of Commonwealth's Attorney Paul W. Ackiss of Princess Anne County, assisted by Floyd E. Kellam, and backed up by the testimony of Sheriff Guy Salmons and County Chief of Police George W. Halstead, that there now exists in the county no feeling against the accused youth.

In announcing his decision to overrule the motion for a change of venue, Judge White said there was "overwhelming evidence" that no feeling now exists in the county against the accused. Certainly no one could be more in favor of a fair and impartial trial than I," he said, "but I fail to see that the petitioner has sustained a motion for a change of venue. The motion is therefore overruled."

The court then set February 8 as the date of the trial on agreement of counsel, after postponing dates for all other trials set for that date.

At the hearing, held Thursday at Princess Anne Courthouse, it was revealed for the first time that Riddick was not brought to Norfolk on December 20, the day following the commission of the alleged crime, because of fear of mob violence, but simply to be fingerprinted and photographed.

CALLED AS COURT'S WITNESS

This was testified to by Sheriff Guy Salmons and Chief of Police Halstead who placed Riddick under arrest following complaints made by Mrs. Evelyn White of the Pungo section of the county that she was attacked in her farm home on the night of December 19, last.

The two officers were called as court's witness after Q. C. Davis, defense counsel, had presented a petition signed by Riddick in which he expressed the belief that he could not obtain a fair trial in Princess Anne County because of the nature of the offense with which he is charged and the racial prejudice and intense feeling against him which exists in the county.

Sheriff Salmons testified that he carried Riddick to the Norfolk city jail only to be photographed and fingerprinted, but later "decided to let him stay there."

He expressed the belief that no feeling exists in the county against the accused youth, and denied that he saw or spoke to six automobile loads of white men who were reported to have gone to the Princess Anne jail and demanded Riddick. He told the court that a trusty told him about the incident afterwards.

MOB DEMONSTRATION DENIED

On cross examination by Attorney Davis he denied that there was any mob demonstration at the time of Riddick's arrest early Sunday morning, December 20, or that a man named only as "Lee" struck him with his fist. According to his testimony, a crowd of people who were on their way to church, did gather at the scene but no attempts to harm the prisoner were made.

"If they had wanted to take the prisoner they could easily have done so," Officer Halstead said in corroborating Mr. Salmons' testimony. "I mean there were enough of them to have done so," he added. The case is never talked about in the county now, the witness stated.

In opposing the motion for a change of venue Commonwealth's Attorney Ackiss introduced thirteen affidavits from prominent white citizens purporting to be residents of the neighborhood where the alleged crime was committed, in which they said that no feeling exists against Riddick and expressing the belief that he could obtain a fair trial in Princess Anne.

These affidavits were signed by the superintendent of Princess Anne County schools, the county game warden, a minister, and several business men.

The commonwealth's attorney contended that these were absolutely disinterested parties and that the three persons who signed affidavits introduced by counsel for the defense in which they expressed the belief that it would be impossible for the accused to obtain a fair trial, were not.

INNOCENCE CLAIMED

Protestations of his innocence despite a confession alleged to have been obtained by Sergeant J. C. Benton of the Norfolk Police Department after a forty-minute grilling, were contained in Riddick's petition to the court.

Mr. Davis based his argument on section 4915 of the Virginia Code under which provision is made for courts to grant a change of venue "for good cause." It was pointed out that under the code, a motion for a change of venue may be made in the absence of the accused, and on the basis of a petition signed by him setting forth reasons for which the motion is made.

Newspaper accounts of feeling existing against Riddick at the time of his arrest, and his subsequent removal to the Norfolk city jail "for safe keeping," were cited by defense counsel as basis for a change of venue.

The impossibility of obtaining a fair trial because of the existence of racial prejudice and because white people, particularly in the Pungo section, are aroused over the alleged crime, was emphasized in the petition.

ACCOMAC CASE CITED

Three affidavits from Princess Anne county citizens setting forth the claim that considerable feeling exists in the county on account of the case, were introduced by defense counsel. It was also stated that Riddick's incarceration had prevented him from properly preparing his motion for a change of venue, or his defense to the charge.

Mr. Davis cited a case in Accomac County several years ago in which the defendant was charged with felonious shooting with intent to kill and in which a new trial was ordered by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals on the grounds the defendant should have been granted a change of venue.

In this case feeling was so high in the county that the defendant's printing shop was burned and he himself forced to flee for his life. He later surrendered into custody for protection, was finally tried and convicted after state militia had been sent to the scene.

"I don't know any offense with which a colored man can be charged which will create more prejudice and feeling than the one with which this boy is charged; the most heinous and diabolical offense known under our civilized law" Mr. Davis declared in his argument.

SHERIFF COMMENDED

"The fact that the sheriff of this county saw fit to move the prisoner to the Norfolk jail because he believed it beyond his power to protect him properly, to my mind, is in itself sufficient cause to grant this petition for a change of venue.

"The sheriff of this county," he continued, "should be commended for his foresight and courage; the defendant's life was no doubt saved by this action. It was only the good judgment, only the foresight, only the faithful performance of his duty as sheriff of this county that makes it possible for this boy to be in the Norfolk jail today."

Later in his rebuttal argument in referring to Riddick's alleged confession of the crime Mr. Davis described the accused youth as "a 19-year-old Negro boy who has never known anything but work on a Princess Anne County farm, with all the bulldogs of the Norfolk police force growling and gnashing their teeth at him—."

He said that Sergeant Benton who was credited with having obtained the alleged confession after 40 minutes of questioning, " has a reputation for breaking down prisoners."

The attorney pointed out that no grand jury has been summoned to probe the presence of six car loads of white men at the Princess Anne jail "in the dead of night and under cover of darkness," demanding the prisoner.

"Certainly no harm can come to the interests of the Commonwealth of Virginia by granting this motion. Let it be said that this defendant,, no matter what his station in life may be, has been granted all the rights guaranteed to him by the Constitution of the United States," he pleaded.

REPUTED SLAYER SECRETLY JAILED

Feeling Reported High in Robbery Killing.

ROANOKE, Va., Aug. 21 —(AP) Everett Quesenbury, arrested Sunday in Beckley, W. Va., charged with slaying C. H. Jessup, Stokes county, North Carolina, farmer in Patrick county, Virginia, was brought to the Roanoke jail today for safekeeping.

Frank P. Burton, Patrick county commonwealth's attorney, said at Rocky Mount this afternoon a special grand jury will meet at Stuart September 7 to consider Quesenbury's case. The prosecutor said in event Quesenbury is indicted he will seek a speedy trial and ask for the death penalty.

Jessup was slain last Saturday at Claudeville in what Burton described as a robbery.

Burton said intense feeling existed against the accused man in Patrick county and he advised the sheriff to bring Quesenbury to the Roanoke city jail.

Lynchings-1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Alabama.

5777
5777

Police Seeking Armed Negro

Birmingham Party Held Up; Attempted Attack Thwarted

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., March 13.—(AP)—Police sought tonight an armed negro who they said attempted to attack a young Woodlawn matron last night after robbing her husband of $21 at a point near the Birmingham Airport.

Patrolman W. R. Duncan, of nearby Tarrant City, said Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Vincent told him the negro fled after firing a pistol shot at Vincent when he came to his wife's assistance.

The officer said Vincent told him he stopped the car to roll a cigaret on a return drive from Tarrant City wit hhis wife, their year-old child, Mrs. G. D. Nix and her 5-month-old baby.

"Vincent said he heard steps behind the car," Duncan related, "and the negro appeared on the driver's side and shined a flashlight in his face. He held a pitsol on them and ordered them from the car."

The negro took the keys from the machine and forced Vincent and the two women, who carried their babies, to walk about 100 feet into the woods, the officer said he was told.

Duncan said Vincent reported he offered money and the automobile to the negro if he would not harm the women. The negro took the money and then directed Mrs. Vincent to precede him farther into the woods, police were told.

"She said he tried to throw her to the ground," Duncan recounted, "and struck her on the hand with the flashlight when she struggled with him. She screamed and when Vincent came to her aid, the negro fired one shot and fled."

Mrs. Nix told him the bullet spattered gravel over the two infants who had been placed on the ground near a tree, the officer said.

Vincent reported he walked to a nearby house and called police.

Officers continued a search today for the negro, described as about 19 years old, five feet six inches tall and weighing about 136 pounds, and wearing a dark suit and cap.

OFFICERS HUNT NEGRO WHO [illegible]

DECATUR, Ala., April 13.—(AP)—Authorities were holding a negro today on charges of attempted attack, after receiving complaints from three women in the nearby Summerville district.

The negro was arrested after bloodhounds were put on the trail of a man reported to have been routed from two homes after annoying women. One woman said a negro intruder choked her.

Negro Held for Assault

DECATUR, Ala., April 13.—(AP)—Authorities were holding a negro today on charges of attempted attack, after receiving complaints from three women in the nearby Summerville district. The negro was arrested after bloodhounds were put on the trail of a man reported to have been routed from two homes.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
May 17, 1937

Negro Suspect In Girl's Attack Taken To Kilby

Edgar Dawson Protests Innocence But Alibi Is Discredited

Edgar Dawson, negro charged with criminally assaulting an 18-year-old white girl in Oakwood Cemetery about 2 a.m. yesterday, last night had been removed from the County Jail here to Kilby Prison for safe-keeping.

As when first arrested by State Highway Patrolman A. J. Lingo, Dawson maintained his innocence throughout the day and added that he believed he could establish an alibi. Officers said last night, however, that they had made a preliminary investigation on the information given them by Dawson and that the alibi, intended to show he was not near the scene of the crime, had failed to check in several important details.

The officers said they would continue their search today for the weapon which the negro allegedly used to force the girl and her companion, Buford Heaton, 209 South Court Street, from the corner of Ripley and Jefferson Streets, into the cemetery.

Near Murder Scene

The assault, occurring not far from the spot where Miss Dora Bullard and L. K. Nichols were found stabbed to death Jan. 17, caused some speculation yesterday as to whether Dawson might have been involved in that crime also. Police and County authorities, for the most part, were not inclined to connect the cases.

Dawson was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. yesterday by Patrolman A. J. Lingo, of the State Highway Patrol, who had joined Capt. W. H. Chesser and Officers Easterling and Hamilton, of the Police Department, in the search. Patrolman Lingo said he found Dawson "snooping about" a candy shop next door to the negro's home at 806 Jefferson Street.

At that time Dawson said he was employed by the candy shop, but W. Baggett, its proprietor, said this was not true. The negro was said not to have done more than two days' work at the shop in the last five years.

According to the girl victim and Mr. Heaton they had been to a baseball game at Cramton Bowl with another couple, who left a few minutes ahead of them, and were walking home when they were accosted by an armed negro at Jefferson and Ripley Streets.

The negro pointed his gun at them, the girl said, and ordered them to turn their faces from him and march in the direction of Oakwood Cemetery, about three blocks away.

"He made us walk along in front of him," she said, "but I got a look at his face in the street light. He told us to keep going or he would kill us both. When we got to the cemetery fence we told him we couldn't go any further. He replied that we had better climb over the fence unless we wanted to die so Buford (Mr. Heaton) helped me over the rails.

Climbed Fence

"The negro told Buford to get over too and threatened him with the pistol. Buford climbed over and was followed by the negro who then made us walk a long way into the cemetery. He stopped us beside a large tree and ordered me to search Buford, which I did. I was made to walk backwards toward the negro so that I couldn't see his face. I gave the negro the change I found in Buford's pockets. There was only a little money and this seemed to anger him. He told me to go back and get the rest. I told him there was no more.

"He next ordered Buford to sprawl in the grass, face downward, and told him that, if he dared to move, he'd put a bullet in his head. Then, still standing behind me, he put a handkerchief in my hand and told me to blindfold myself. I wanted to scream and run, but I knew that if I did he'd kill both us both. Once Buford turned his head and made a slight movement. The negro pointed his gun at him and said he'd shoot if he tried that again.

Girl Blindfolded

"I tied the handkerchief over my eyes, like he said, but he wasn't satisfied. He adjusted it tighter and then he assaulted me."

The girl said that, a minute or so later, she managed to grab the negro's arm.

"I almost got the gun," she told a reporter, "but he was too strong for me. Anyway, the negro was upset and he jumped back and leveled his gun at us. I believe he would have killed us, too, if we hadn't darted behind the tree."

The negro then fled in the direction of Madison Avenue and the girl with Heaton at her side, ran in the same direction. She screamed to attract attention. Her cries were heard by E. R. Sharp and N. C. Lingo who were walking home on Madison Avenue. They untied the blindfold, that still clung to the girl's neck, and summoned the police. Mr. Lingo also went to the home of his brother, A. J. Lingo, the highway patrolman, at 11 Vonora Avenue, and the latter arrested Dawson less than an hour later.

At 1:55 a.m. the negro was taken to the county jail where the girl identified him as her assailant. Heaton said the negro was about the same size of her assailant but that, not having seen his face clearly, he could not identify him.

Deputy Sheriff Mosely took the negro's shoes and returned to the scene of the crime. He said the shoes fitted perfectly in the imprints found along the roadway.

Deputy Mosely and Patrolman Lingo said that Dawson seemed to have been drinking, but that he appeared to be steady.

As the girl and her mother were walking home early yesterday morning a negro seized the former, evidently with the purpose of assaulting her, and then fled when the latter screamed for aid. It was thought that the negro had not seen the mother, who was walking several yards behind her daughter.

Police said that Wright was reported to have been "making eyes" at women within the vicinity in recent weeks. The negro was said to have made no statement following his arrest.

Negro Suspect Held In Attempted Attack

ANNISTON, ALA., Nov. 3.—(AP)—Sheriff W. P. Cotton said today a posse had cornered over to him a negro captured after a 16-year-old white girl reported a negro had attempted to attack her.

Cotton said the captured man's legs had been peppered with shotgun pellets.

NEGRO IS SENTENCED ON ASSAULT CHARGE

Robert Rudolph, 24-year-old Negro of 616 11th-st, n, was fined $250 and sentenced to nine months hard labor by Judge H. B. Abernethy in County Court of Misdemeanors today in connection with a charge of assault and battery on a white woman.

Mrs. M. F. Evans Jr. of 108 20th-st, n, testified that Rudolph, a bus boy in a downtown restaurant, caught her hand and spoke disrespectfully to her. Mrs. Evans was employed as a waitress in the restaurant.

Negro Is Identified In Assault Attempt

A charge of attempted criminal assault yesterday was placed against Wilson Sharp, West Montgomery negro, after he had been identified at the county jail by a 14-year-old girl, and her mother, as the man who seized the former about 1 a.m. [illegible] Birmingham Highway, just [illegible] Mobile Road. Sharp was arrested at 3:30 a.m. by Officers J. L. Stough and D. J. Tally, Jr., members of a searching party dispatched to the scene along [illegible] from Kilby Prison.

Identifies Three Youths, But All Have 'Iron-Clad' Alibis

Alabama Woman Is Unable to Make Up Her Mind After Telling Story, So Youngsters Are Released.

CENTREVILLE, Ala., Oct. 21—Three youths escaped a possible lynching or other violence here last week when each of them was identified by a white woman as "the man" who attempted to attack her.

The victim of the alleged attempt, who lives on the Tuscaloosa and Montgomery highway approximately half-way between Centreville and the County Training School for Negroes, reported to police last Monday that "a Negro, with curley hair, wearing a blue sweater, or jacket of some kind, and wore her dress pretty off as she stood in the front door of her home. The woman said she was knocked down, and that as she screamed her would-be attacker fled.

Police joined by a group of white citizens immediately started a man-hunt which was said to look for "a Negro with curly hair."

Can't Make Up Her Mind

The first Negro youth picked up answering the description was brought before the woman who immediately "identified him."

"That looks like the one . . . and I think it is," she is said to have told police.

It was proved later, however, that the "identified" youth had been at work in the store of a local merchant at the time the attack was alleged to have taken place.

In quick succession, two other youths were brought before the victim." These she also "identified" as the person who struck her.

As in the case of the first boy, the latter two were found to have had air-tight alibis and were released after questioning.

Arkansas.

5776

Lynchings - 1937

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Principals In Probe Of Assault On Memphis Girl

YOUNG NEGROES HELD IN ATTACK

Memphis Girl, 18, Taken From Companion and Assaulted

MARION, Ark., Dec. 2 (AP)—Sheriff Howard Curlin announced the arrest today of two young Negroes who, he said, confessed they attacked an 18-year-old Memphis girl, after dragging her from her companion's automobile last night.

The Negroes were booked as Theo Thomas and Frank [illegible]. The sheriff said they would be charged with rape.

The girl was taken to a Memphis hospital early today suffering from bruises and shock. She said she had been attacked and beaten by two drunken Negroes, one of whom had a gun and threatened to kill her.

Sheriff Curlin said F. E. Brading, 21, of Jonesboro, Ark., and the girl were in a car parked on the highway when the Negroes held them up and seized her.

Brading escaped and summoned aid. A posse of about 50 men found the girl several hours later.

Directing the investigation which followed the criminal assault on a Memphis girl by two negroes in Crittenden County, Arkansas, Christmas Night, was Sheriff Howard Curlin (upper left photo) who makes a telephone call from the Marion jail as State Ranger Odell Maxey checks his notes.

Two negroes admitted the attack, Sheriff Curlin said. The girl was in a parked car with F. E. Brading (left in upper right picture), Jonesboro youth, who is shown with Tom Morgan (right). Young Morgan said the negroes offered to help him fix a flat tire shortly before they approached Mr. Brading and his companion.

Jailer W. O. Curlin (left), brother of the sheriff, is leaving the Marion jail with Deputies Ray Curtis (center) and C. L. Goad after the negroes had allegedly confessed the crime. Deputy Goad found the girl near the highway and he and Deputy Curtis took her to a Memphis hospital.

Lynchings - 1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.
6 6

California

5778

"Black Ape Man" Found To Be White Boy, 15

LOS ANGELES—(By Harry Levette for ANP)—Night after night for over a month police radio cars have [illegible] the southside, Negro section, scurrying here and there in search of an "ape man" whom some hysterical white woman he djust reported as having leaped upon a tree, knocking her down and robbing her. He was always described as a Negro, and always as nude or clad only in a pair of shorts. The attacks had always occurred in the vicinity of Slauson and 85th street in the Avalon district, and the dailies had carried many front page stories about the mysterious "Black Tarzan."

But last Sunday night, 77th street station police solved the mystery and the nationality of the "Ape Man" by arresting Albert Anxionatt, a large fifteen year old white boy, of 365 W. 93rd street, who confessed that he was the wanted terror of the trees and shrubbery. He was taken into custody for molesting several small girls in a theatre on South Vermont Avenue, and avter severe questioning by the police admitted to all the crimes committed by the nude purse-snatcher. He also confessed to taking part in nude orgies with other boys and girls.

Because of his age he was taken in charge by the crime prevention Bureau which will bring him to trial in the near future.

Florida

5779

Lynchings - 1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Pensacola, Fla. News
May 24, 1937

Bloodhound Trails Negro In Attempted Attack 25 Miles

After a search which began shortly after 10 o'clock last night at the heels of Convict Camp 43's famed bloodhound, "Queen," and covered 25 miles by daybreak, Deputies T. A. Coleman and W. R. Olsen today were confident of the early arrest of an unidentified negro wanted for a series of attempted attacks on white women.

The negro, who has allegedly grabbed at women walking along lonely streets by themselves at night several times during the last few weeks, last night appeared in the bedroom of an East Jordan street house and attempted to choke a woman occupant. The woman, who was in the house alone at the time, told officers the negro seized her as she walked into the darkened room.

Pushing his hands from her throat she screamed so lustily he became frightened and fled just as two neighbors arrived, Deputy Olsen said.

Aided by "Queen", bloodhound to whom officers give the credit for a large number of captures, Coleman and Olsen, Convict Captain B. H. West, Ernest McVoy and the negro trusty who trained the dog, trailed the negro from the Jordan street address past Cottage Hill. At a point between Pensacola and Cottage Hill Queen lost the trail and officers expressed the belief the negro had got a ride on a passing vehicle.

The negro is described as being small, about 135 pounds in weight, between 25 and 30 years of age and dressed in dark trousers and a light shirt.

Lynchings - 1937
Rape — Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Georgia

5780

ATLANTA POLICE HUNT YOUNG NEGRO ATTACKER

Fugitive Assaults One White Girl, Accosts Two Others

ATLANTA, Ga., June 3.—(UP)—Police and county deputies tonight deployed around the outskirts of Atlanta hunting a young negro, armed with a pistol, who criminally attacked a 10-year-old white girl and attempted to attack two other white women.

The negro, apparently about 20 years old, attacked the girl yesterday, police said.

Today he forced a white girl, 14 years old, into a garage and attempted to attack her. He was surprised by Fred Phillips, who heard the girl's cries. Phillips grappled with the negro, but he escaped.

Two hours later the negro met an 18-year-old white girl walking on a path in a vacant section of the city. He covered her with a pistol, but fled when she told him she "saw some white men watching us."

Assault Attempt Charged to Negro

Court Orders Rouse Held for Trial; Negress Released

7-30-37

Charged with attempted criminal assault of a nine-year-old white girl, Claude Rouse, 16, Negro, was held under $500 bond yesterday at a commitment hearing before Judge R. Douglas Feagin in municipal court.

The Negro allegedly put his hand on the girl in front of a Fifth street store last July 12. He is represented by T. A. Jacobs Jr., Norman E. English, assistant solicitor of superior court, represents the state.

Judge Feagin at another hearing dismissed the case against Lottie Brooks, Negress charged with assault with intent to murder Louis Smith, Negro.

Smith was stabbed in the neck in a fight with the woman on the Georgia Industrial Home road July 10. The woman pleaded self-defense. She was represented by Hallie B. Bell, attorney, while Solicitor Charles H. Garrett represented the state.

Attacker Hunt Still Goes On

Two Negroes Routed By Georgia Farm Women May Be Quarry

MOUNT VERNON, GA., Sept. 1.—(AP)—The hunt for a negro accused of attacking a white woman, with a toll of one dead and two wounded veered to the farm of Earl McArthur tonight, after two negroes were routed by his wife.

Mrs. McArthur said the two demanded the keys to the McArthur automobile.

Sheriff T. G. Peterson said the negroes fled into the woods after she went into the house, ostensibly to get the keys to the car, and returned with a gun. The officer said the men "may be" wanted in connection with the attack on a white woman Saturday.

A posse of 25 men, aided by track dogs, took up the new lead.

County Warden E. D. Burns headed the searching party.

Will Kirby, negro, was killed, and Mayor John W. Underwood of Mount Vernon and Ralph Grinstead, a posseman, were wounded by flying bullets at Kirby's home yesterday.

The youthful mayor attempted to intervene between an aroused posse and Kirby, who was suspected of harboring one of the fugitives sought in the rape case.

Underwood and Grinstead were struck by gunfire which officers said interrupted the mayor's efforts to "calm things down."

A State warrant in the rape case named the suspect as Buddy Sharpe.

Underwood was shot in the arm and back. Grinstead, suffered a fracture of [illegible] from a bullet.

County Attorney [illegible] Underwood, father of the 25-year-old mayor, did not say if prosecution would be attempted.

Prosecutor Underwood said men had been roaming the country "in an ugly mood" since the attack case was reported.

"We'd been afraid of a lynching ever since," he said.

The mayor was under treatment in Dublin, Ga., hospital.

ATTACK REPORTED BY EAST POINT GIRL

Five Squad Cars of Fulton Police Seek Negro.

An 18-year-old East Point girl told Fulton county police that she was attacked by a negro last night near her home. She said she was threatened with death if she resisted.

East Point police and five squad cars of Fulton county police last night were searching for the negro, who was reported to have fled across the yards of the Central of Georgia railroad.

The girl told police she was returning home and had turned into a lane leading to her home when a negro jumped at her from behind bushes.

Illinois.

Lynchings-1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5781

Frameup's Evil Seed

The news of the day out of Chicago "Capt. Raymond Crane said he had positive information that the slayer of Anna Kutcha, a nurse, was a white man, not a Negro, as first believed."

It is about time that the American people learn that the Negro is the victim of a reputation pinned on him. A woman in Topeka accounted for the death of her companion on a trip into the country, by a most circumstantial statement of "a Negro's murderous attack." A cab driver in Kansas City brings in a dying man, fatally "wounded by a Negro."

As it is prejudice brings its own penalty. Fooled by their own bias into trying to convict a Negro, especially where dastardly offense is committed, officials make no effort to follow where the real clues lead, with the result that more and more real criminals escape the law. As ever oppression breeds within itself the seeds of its own destruction.

Roncoverte, W. Va., News
August 26, 1937

perused news sheets in vain for news of his capture and confession. For the eleventh time we have been disappointed, and we do not recall that any likely suspects have been arrested and questioned for any of the crimes.

The last woman to be murdered and ravished was a nurse in a Chicago hospital which at the time was being guarded by police who had information that a suspicious Negro was seen hanging around the institution. The undaunted "brick slayer," however, committed his horrible crime and made his escape in the same manner and quite as easily as he had nine times previously. A few nights later, in another Chicago hospital, he would have repeated his act but was frustrated by screams of his victim and succeeded only in butchering her up a bit, again making a successful exit.

Coincident with these horrors of last week, Congress considered for a brief time the Anti-Lynching law. The irony of it all! Perhaps if the citizenry of our second largest metropolis arouses itself, eventually enough pressure may be brought to bear upon her police force to have the "brick slayer" brought up to face charges of income tax evasion—although we don't know how they would nab the maniac unless he should walk into the police station some day and give himself up.

said, he might easily be mistaken for a colored man."

That her assailant could not have been a Negro was revealed after McCall was arrested. He repeated his words to Miss Austin during the attack which were, "You know me. You've seen me in the hotel." However, the woman "forgot" them when she started police searching for a colored prowler and remembered this statement only after McCall told it to officers.

WHERE ELSE BUT CHICAGO?

Within the past few days news syndicates have reported mechanically the fourth rape and murder and the eleventh attack upon women in two years by a Negro known as the "brick slayer," who consistently identifies himself by entering buildings via fire escapes and windows carrying a brick in his hand as a weapon. Yes, it happened in Chicago, for in what other supposedly civilized city in the world would a maniac so well identified perpetrate ghastly, blood-curdling crimes and remain at large so long?

Not since the days of Al Capone and "Big Bill" Thompson has a criminal been allowed to shock the civilized world by ruthless and brazen crimes against society, and to repeat the same time and again with an arrogance that compels the conclusion that police are not even hot enough on his trail to make him go in hiding.

The first time the "brick slayer" was given nation-wide publicity, and each succeeding time thereafter, we have

'Burly Black Rapist' Found To Be White Man

CHICAGO—(ANP) — A "burly black man" who recently attacked several white women in a loop hotel has much to the embarrassment of the white press been found to be a respectable white business man by day and a rapist by night.

Thomas McCall, 39, an engraver, was arrested Wednesday and confessed he assaulted Virginia Austin 25, artist and sculptor, in her room at the Washington hotel August 15. He was jailed after Miss Natalie Ortuso, 16 year old dancer, described him as the prowler who tried to get into her room a week ago Saturday night. He is also being quizzed in connection with the rape of Alda [illegible] an actress attacked on Sept. 25, 1936. All of these occurred in the Washington hotel where McCall had lived intermittently for five years. Negroes were blamed in the Austin and Deery cases.

Efforts are also being made to link the white man with 11 other major sex attacks and murders in hotels and hospitals. In practically all of them, police have sought Negroes as the culprits. Daily papers here have played up each assault and hundreds of Negroes have been picked up "on suspicion" as the white press fought for the arrest and conviction of the "black morons" responsible.

Miss Austin, who was first hit with a brick while she lay sleeping and then assaulted after she awakened, said she thought her assailant was a colored man. The Chicago TRIBUNE pointed out that "McCall is dark complexioned, dark haired, has black eyes and sharp features. In the half light, police

Swarthy White Man Confesses

Journal and Guide 10-2-37 Norfolk, Va.

Latest "Negro Did It" Crime

Daily Newspapers and Police Find Selves In Embarrassing Position; Seek To Explain City-Wide Manhunt

CHICAGO, Ill., (ANP)—A "burly black man" who recently attacked several white women in a loop hotel has, much to the embarrassment of the white press, been found to be a respectable white businessman by day and a rapist by night.

Thomas McCall, 39, an engraver, was arrested last week and confessed he assaulted Virginia Austin, 25, artist and sculptor, in her room at the Washington hotel, August 15. He was jailed after Miss Natalie Ortuso, 16 year old dancer, described him as the prowler who tried to get into her room a week ago Saturday night.

QUESTIONED ABOUT OTHERS

He is also being quizzed in connection with the rape of Alda Deery, an actress attacked on September 26, 1936. All of these occurred in the Washington hotel where McCall had lived intermittently for five years. Negroes were blamed in the Austin and Deery cases. The victims are white.

Efforts are also being made to link the white man with 11 other major sex attacks and murders in hotels and hospitals. In practically all of them, police have sought Negroes as the culprits. Daily papers here have played up each assault and hundreds of Negroes have been picked up "on suspicion" as the white press fought for the arrest and conviction of the "black morons" responsible.

HIT WITH BRICK

Miss Austin, who was first hit with a brick while she lay sleeping and then assaulted after she awakened, said she thought her assailant was a colored man. The Chicago Tribune pointed out that McCall is dark complexioned, dark haired, has black eyes and sharp features. In the half light, police said, he might easily be mistaken for a colored man."

That her asasilant could not have been a Negro was revealed after McCall was arrested. He repeated his words to Miss Austin during the attack which were: "You know me. You've seen me in the hotel." However, the woman "forgot" them when she started police searching for a colored prowler and remembered this statement only after McCall told it to officers.

Indiana

Lynchings-1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5782

Holds Colored Did Not Serve On Grand Jury

To file an appeal on the grounds that his motion to quash the indictment was overruled, and second, that although the prosecuting witness, Mrs. Charles Milliard, white, appeared, no evidence was offered, as demanded by law, proving she is a woman and therefore possible of rape, Attorney W. S. Henry sought acquittal of his client, Thomas Johnson, 35, 2734 Columbia avenue, found guilty in criminal court of assault while armed after an hour-four-minute jury deliberation last Saturday. That there were no colored persons on the grand jury returning the indictment will be one basis of appeal. Johnson faces a sentence of five to twenty-one years on the first charge, and a determinate sentance of ten to twenty on the second. They will not be served concurrently, Judge Baker said, which means that the convicted man will have to serve one before beginning to serve the other.

Mrs. Milliard said that when she was raped that Johnson said, "Come over here and lay down." The detectives tried to get Johnson to repeat that sentence, but he refused.

Alleged confessing as the slayer of Earl Herr, Logansport fireman, April 27, who was shot in the neck by an unknown assailant, but not charged with that offense, John Johnson was said to have raped a Miss [illegible] who was with Herr at the time of the shooting. One man, previously arrested and positively identified by Miss Crusem as Herr's slayer, was released and returned to Brasil, Indiana.

On the tenth of last October, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Milliard said they were walking across the Thirtieth street bridge at Fall Creek, after having left the Zaring theater, when they were approached by a small light-complexioned man. She said he made them go down under the bridge and at the point of a gun, forced her husband to lie flat on his back while he assaulted her. That man, she said, had two pairs of pants

When she started to scream, her husband said not to, Mrs. Milliard said. Her husband confessed that when the man had finished assaulting Mrs. Milliard, he (the husband) said, "Buddy give me a cigarette." The man then went on top of the bridge and told Mrs. Milliard to wait there with her husband for ten minutes. Then said, "wait for fifteen minutes." She said that he said, "I will throw your um-er-rella down." The attack occurred from about ten-ten until ten-fifty, she alleges. Johnson said that between ten-ten and ten-fifty he was at Twenty-fifth street and Martindale avenue, that from eight o'clock until nine-fifteen he was working on his truck at home; that he was in the house from then until about ten-thirty and then he went to Twenty-fifth and Martindale avenue, where he was with some friends. These friends denied they saw him.

Mrs. Milliard testified that the man who attacked her took $1.50 from her. When caught by police, Johnson said that he had $2.70 which he had earned by hauling junk with his truck. He was arrested at his home on October 13, by Detectives Holt and Jones.

When taken to the home of the Milliards, Mrs. Milliard said that he was the man. Johnson refused to pronounce the word "umbrella." Holt and Jones said that they asked him this before they ever said anything about a rape case at all.

Kansas.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.
6

5783

ATTACK VICTIM UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ASSAILANTS

Capital-Journal
Topeka, Kan.

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 8.—(AP)—Miss Marie Fink, who was attacked by three negroes after they killed her escort, Verne Hedrick, on a country road near here Friday night, told police today she doubted if she could identify any of the [illegible].

The negroes killed Hedrick when he resisted their efforts to rob him and then dragged Miss Fink from their parked car and into a field where all of them mistreated her. It was at night and Miss Fink said she did not get an opportunity to note the appearances of any of them.

PUSH HUNT FOR NEGROES

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

Three Believed To Have Made Second Attempt At Attack

TOPEKA, Kan., Aug. 3.—(AP)—Complaints of a white woman and girl that they were accosted by negroes doubled efforts of police today to solve the slaying of Verne T. Hedrick by three negroes who criminally assaulted his companion, Miss Marie Fink, 20, on a country road Friday night.

Miss Margaret Jennings reported she was accosted by a young negro yesterday as she was walking on the street. Parents of the girl, whose name police withheld, told officers a negro tried to get her to enter his car.

Eutaw, Ala., Democrat
August 18, 1937

Three negroes killed Verne Hedrick in his car parked at the roadside in Topeka, Kan., recently [illegible] his girl companion into the adjacent field, attacked her. The negroes have not been arrested as yet. A few days before this occurrence The Topeka Capital had written a nasty, unfair editorial about Alabama and the treatment of the Scottsboro "boys". The most recent outrage will bring the question closer home to The Capital.—Alexander City Outlook.

Kentucky

Lynchings-1937

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5784

GIRL, ALONE IN HOME, IS VICTIM OF ATTACK

HENDERSON, Ky., Aug. [illegible]—(AP)—A "big negro" man was sought here tonight in connection with a criminal attack upon a 12-year-old white girl.

Police Chief Fitzgerald said the victim was confined in the home of her grandmother during the latter's absence.

Alleged Attacker Reported Arrested

AIKEN, S. C., Oct. 10.—(AP)—Police Chief J. E. George, working in collaboration with an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced tonight the arrest of a negro whom he said was wanted by Kentucky authorities for attacking a white woman and armed robbery.

Chief George said the arrest climaxed a search for the negro which started last August. The FBI, he said, had been working on the case since Sept. 1.

He named the negro as Harold Van Venison, alias Will Horace, and said the negro was a member of a widely known Covington, Ky., negro quartet which formerly gave broadcasts at Cincinnati and Covington.

Chief George said he was advised by George K. Langley, chief of the Kenyon (Covington) County police, that Kentucky authorities will arrive in Aiken tomorrow and would come prepared to lay extradition papers before Gov. Olin D. Johnston, of South Carolina.

Chief George said the negro came to Aiken late in September and had been working in local cotton fields. Last night, he said, three officers were detailed to watch the home of the negro's cousin. After an all-night vigil, the officers made the arrest.

Chief George quoted the negro as saying he was from Covington, but the negro denied the crime, he said, saying that he had loaned his automobile to another negro on the night of the crime.

A substantial reward had been posted for the negro's arrest, George said.

Lynchings-1937

Louisiana.

5785

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

NEGROES ARRESTED IN ATTACK ON GIRL

ALEXANDRIA, La., March 24.—(AP)—Two negro suspects were arrested today in connection with a criminal attack reported by a 16-year-old girl employe of a restaurant here.

The attack occurred last night as she was returning home from work. A negro, she said, jumped from the bushes, attacked and beat her and left her unconscious.

Massachusetts.

Lynchings-1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5786

BRINGING DIXIE TO CAMBRIDGE

NOTHING could be more revolting than the case of the three colored youths who were arrested in Cambridge last Sunday morning and charged with attacking a white woman. Equally disgusting was the manner in which the "cultured" Boston dailies played up the story. Blaring headlines on the first or second pages screamed to the public that NEGROES had ATTACKED a WHITE WOMAN.

The third nauseating aspect of the sordid affair is that the police made a circus out of it in order to put pressure on the Cambridge Mayor who had refused to give their department extra officers.

In the Court it transpired that the more the Judge probed the case, the more the Fernando woman's character fell to pieces and the greater liar she appeared to be. The whole thing boiled down to this: Two apparently loose women, (one white, one colored) were on the usual hunt for men and after talking with the three youths, the white one retired to a playground followed by the trio while her colored girl friend kept watch. A white friend of the former decided to see what was going on and forced his way past the colored girl. On seeing him the white woman, plainly to save her face, started screaming for help and naturally had to bolster it up by having the youths traced to their homes and arrested. Such a story has been written in Alabama, Georgia or Florida times without number, except that in those places the Negroes would not be alive to be placed on trial. It would be the rope and faggot in quick time.

We warn all thinking colored residents of Massachusetts that if they sit supinely by and allow the police and the daily press to indulge in political checkers and yellow journalism at the expense of Negroes, we shall soon have a red hot lynching right here in our midst. It is noticeable that the police did not bring the colored girl into the case for the obvious reason that her testimony would have pricked their bubble much earlier. We also notice that when the case was dismissed the dailies buried the exoneration in small type on the rear pages.

We do not endorse the loose morals of these apparently depraved boys but on general principles we must vigorously protest against the methods adopted by police and press and demand that there shall be no repetition of such unfair and un-American tactics.

Lynchings-1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Mississippi.

5787

EGRO SHOT BY OFFICERS

rapped After Writing Note to Young Tupelo Woman

TUPELO, Miss., Jan. 12. — Irvin [illegible], 22-year-old negro service station attendant, who was shot last night by Cliff Parminter, Bill Monaghan as he sought to fill what was termed a self-proposed date with a young woman here, was believed to be in a dying condition at Tupelo Hospital late today.

Meanwhile, locale officers report that the handwriting on a note the young woman found in her car late yesterday, which note led directly to the shooting of Hadley, corresponded with the negro's handwriting at the service station where he had been employed.

Chief of Police J. E. Carr, together with members of his force and several citizens, formed an ambush in the neighborhood designated in the note and instructed the woman to drive to them after allowing the negro to enter her car.

With the trap set and with Patrolman Monaghan hid in the closed rumble seat of her machine, the woman drove to North Green Street and allowed the negro to enter her car.

Suddenly becoming extremely excited, she signaled for help, causing the negro to leap to the street. Patrolman Monaghan emerged from his hiding in time to fire upon the fleeing black. One bullet struck the negro in the back, puncturing a lung and came out his chest.

Negro Molests Girl

YAZOO CITY, Miss., April 8.—A. D. Archer, 32-year-old negro, was placed in undisclosed jail today by Yazoo County officers as a precautionary measure, after being charged with making improper advances toward a girl in the Bentonia community. He is alleged to have grabbed the girl by the shoulders as she was waiting for the school bus, but as he did so the bus arrived and he released her.

When H. T. Hinson, constable of Beat 1, with the aid of Jim Warnock, attempted to arrest Archer Monday morning, the negro grabbed for Mr. Hinson's gun and was wounded in the leg by Mr. Warnock.

POLICE FEAR VIOLENCE IF NEGRO IS CAPTURED

Commercial Appeal 8-3-37

Brookhaven Takes Precautions as Hunt Pushed

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Aug. 2.—(AP)—Police Chief Ed Smith tonight said special precautions were being taken to protect a negro suspect in the event of his arrest in connection with the alleged kidnaping of Rosalie Serio, 15-year-old school girl who has been missing from her home since last Wednesday night.

The suspect, T. C. Smith, 25, a negro formerly employed by the girl's father, was being hunted by officers over a wide area.

Miss Serio disappeared mysteriously, supposedly carrying with her three dresses and two pairs of shoes. Chief Smith said she left about the same time Smith departed from Brookhaven after being discharged about two weeks ago by Miss Serio's father, Sam Serio, from his store.

The parents of the missing girl pleaded with officers to locate their daughter and offered a $500 reward for her safe return.

Federal agents joined local officers in their efforts to solve the disappearance of Miss Serio.

Girl And Suspect Hunted In Chicago

Advertiser 8-5-37

BROOKHAVEN, MISS., Aug. 4.—(AP)—Brookhaven officers said today they had enlisted the aid of Chicago police, as well as Department of Justice Agents in a search for T. C. Smith, 25-year-old negro, who is charged with kidnaping Rosalie Serio, 15.

The Brookhaven high school girl has been missing since last Wednesday night, and efforts have been made to connect her disappearance with the sudden departure from Brookhaven of the Smith negro, who was formerly employed by Sam Seiro, father of the missing girl.

Sheriff J. Walter Smith said he felt "almost certain" the negro went to Chicago.

"He had worked there several years ago, and knew his way around in Chicago fairly well," the officers said.

Nothing had come of the hunt today, the sheriff added, and no information concerning the girl's whereabouts had been reported.

"She just vanished, and that's all we know about it," Smith said.

The sheriff reiterated that it was "only a theory" that the girl left with the negro. She apparently took three of her dresses and two pairs of shoes with her when she left, indicating, officers said, that she might have left home voluntarily.

The grief-stricken parents have offered a $500 reward for her return.

Negro Suspect To Be Protected

Advertiser 8-3-37

BROOKHAVEN, MISS., Aug. 2—(AP)—Police Chief Ed Smith tonight said special precautions were being taken to protect a negro suspect in the event of his arrest in connection with the alleged kidnaping of Rosalie Serio, 15-year-old white school girl who has been missing from her home since last Wednesday night.

The suspect, T. C. Smith, 25, a negro formerly employed by the girl's father, was being hunted by officers over a wide area.

Miss Serio disappeared mysteriously, supposedly carrying with her three dresses and two pairs of shoes.

Chief Smith said she left about the same time the Smith negro departed from Brookhaven after being discharged about two weeks ago by Miss Serio's father, Sam Serio, from his store.

The parents of the missing girl pleaded with officers to locate their daughter and offered a $500 reward for her safe return.

Federal agents joined local officers in their efforts to solve the disappearance of Miss Serio.

Negro Sought In Kidnaping

Mississippi Girl Missing; F. B. I. Help Asked

Advertiser 8-3-37

BROOKHAVEN, MISS., Aug. 1.—(AP)—Lincoln County officers sought T. C. Smith, 25-year-old negro, today, with a warrant charging him with kidnaping Rosalie Serio, 15, daughter of a Brookhaven grocer.

Chief of Police Ed Smith, who announced the warrant had been filed in a justice of the peace court, said Federal Bureau of Investigation agents at New Orleans had been asked to aid in the search.

Chief Smith declared the negro, a discharged employe of the Serio girl's father, disappeared about the same time she left home last Wednesday night.

"The negro left in an automobile he claimed was his own," said the officer, "but we have investigated and believe now the car was stolen."

Three of Rosalie's dresses were found to be missing, also, he said. Chief Smith asserted no one in the Serio family had signed the kidnaping affidavit, but they were aware it had been filed.

Note.

Adventurous Girl Returned To Home

Rosalie Serio Is Back In Mississippi Town

Associated Press

BROOKHAVEN, MISS., Aug. 11.—(AP)—So far as the records are concerned, the disappearance and return of Rosalie Serio, 15-year-old Brookhaven high school girl, is just another case of "a young girl wanting to see something of the world."

That is the way Sheriff J. Walter Smith said he saw it, after returning from California today with the runaway girl, her father, and two of the girl's uncles.

"Rosalie said she just wanted to leave for awhile," the sheriff said, "and she said she ran away from home alone."

"She told us that she hitch-hiked her way to Jackson the night she disappeared, and bought a ticket there for San Luis Bobispo, Calif., where she was found. The girl told us she became homesick when she got to California and had run out of money. She was ready to come home."

Asked what would be done about a kidnaping charge filed against T. C. Smith, 25-year-old negro who disappeared the same night the girl left home, Sheriff Smith said "that will be held up for the time being."

Run-Away Girl Returns Home After Trip To California

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., Aug. 11.—The Sam Serios were happy today. Their "baby," Rosalie, 15, had returned to the family fold, a little pale and wan, but none the worse for her run-away experience of the past two weeks.

The young daughter of Sam Serio, local fruit merchant, denied she had been kidnaped or had run away with the negro, T. C. Smith, a former employe, who had been suspected of abducting the girl. Surrounded by several of her brothers and sisters, she told friends of her experiences.

"I just took my clothes and slipped out of the house and caught a ride with a man and his wife," she said. "They took me to Jackson, where I caught a Southern Pacific train to California. I went in a day coach all the way." She said she took about $65, which she had been saving.

"I didn't stop until I got to San Jose, Cal., where I spent one night. I hitch-hiked again from there to Itascadero, where a constable, Dale Poole, picked me up. I had $5 left then."

The little Italian girl giggled as she told of her experience with the officer. "He asked me my name and where I was from. I told him that I lived in San Jose and he said I might get away with that in some places but he knew I was from the South. I told him then who I was and that I had run away from home. He hadn't heard of my being missing."

The officer took the girl to San Luis Obispo, from where her parents were notified of her whereabouts. She was released to them Sunday morning.

"I didn't know anything about T. C., she told the officers. "He wasn't with me. I don't know where he is now."

Serio today said that the finding of the girl canceled the reward offered for the negro.

Sheriff Smith said that the time the girl said it took her to complete her trip checked with railroad time tables. He expressed the opinion the negro could hardly be suspected now of abducting the girl or of accompanying her on the trip.

SCHOOLGIRL, 15, IS FEARED VICTIM OF NEGRO KIDNAPER

G-Men Are Asked To Join Hunt For Daughter Of Mississippi Grocery Store Operator Who Has Been Missing For Two Days

Post 7-31-37.

FATHER'S FORMER EMPLOYE GONE

Birmingham, Ala.

First Belief That She Might Have Left Home To Visit Relatives Is Discounted After Check; Feeling Is High In Town

7-31-37

By United Press.

BROOKHAVEN, Miss., July 31.—Department of Justice agents were asked to join Mississippi and Louisiana officers today in a widespread search for Rosalie Serio, pretty 15-year-old schoolgirl who disappeared Wednesday night.

Fears that the girl had been abducted, possibly by a Negro, increased as the hours passed with no word from her.

Detectives in New Orleans continued a search for a 30-year-old Brookhaven Negro who formerly worked in the Serio Grocery Store here. The Negro disappeared at approximately the same time the girl's absence was noted. He had been seen lurking near the Serio home earlier in the evening.

G-Men Stand By

Operatives in the New Orleans Bureau of the U. S. Department of Justice were standing by, pending instructions from Washington. Lincoln County Sheriff J. Walter Smith and Chief of Police W. E. Smith urged Government investigators to enter the case, in the belief that it was an abduction.

Possibility that the girl left voluntarily—either alone or accompanied—was seen in the perplexing fact that three of her dresses also were missing.

The distracted parents said, however, that their daughter's normal behavior would not bear out such assumption. She had never left home before of her own accord and she always had lived a quiet life. They were at a loss to account for the absence of her clothes.

Leads Unavailing

At first it was believed the girl might have gone to Louisiana to visit relatives, but a careful check of all relatives and acquaintances revealed no trace of her.

The girl's father, Sam Serio, had not slept since his daughter's disappearance. He accompanied the sheriff and chief of police on all their leads, traveling with them over much of Lower Mississippi and Louisiana. The mother was near collapse.

Ransom, as a motive for abducting the girl, was not considered likely by either the parents or local authorities. The Serios are not wealthy.

Rosalie was described as being unusually attractive. She had long, dark tresses and dark eyes.

Feeling ran high in Brookhaven, a town of 6000 inhabitants in Southern Mississippi, when the rumor got around that a Negro might have kidnaped the girl.

Lynchings-1937
Rape:- Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

New York

5788

NEGRO BEATS GIRL, STUFFS HER IN DUCT

6-17-37

Youngster Charges She Was Lured With Promise of Photos

NEW YORK, June 17.—(AP)—A negro porter was accused by District Attorney Samuel J. Foley today of luring a 10-year-old girl to the basement of a Bronx theater yesterday and beating her unconscious when she resisted his advances.

6-18-37

The girl was found stuffed in a ventilating duct under the theater stage this morning, nearly 20 hours after the asserted attack.

She was taken, semi-conscious, to Lincoln hospital, where physicians said she was suffering from a skull fracture and multiple contusions. She was expected to recover.

Police took William Ray, 28, and another porter employed at the theater, to the hospital. Foley said the girl identified Ray as her assailant, and Detective Martin Fitzpatrick then quoted him as admitting that he beat her with a brick when she repelled him.

The girl, motherless daughter of a railroad flagman, "skipped" school yesterday morning and went to the theater. She said Ray enticed her into the basement with promises of autographed pictures of movie stars.

Child Attacked; Negro Arrested

Telegraph

Girl, 10, Beaten and Left in Theater Basement

6-17-37

NEW YORK, June 17 (AP)—A Negro porter was accused by District Attorney Samuel J. Foley today of luring a 10-year-old girl to the basement of a Bronx theater yesterday and beating her unconscious when she resisted his advances.

The girl, Mary Maglione, was found stuffed in a ventilating duct under the theater stage this morning, nearly 20 hours after the alleged attack.

She was taken, semi-conscious, to Lincoln hospital, where physicians said she was suffering from a skull fracture and multiple contusions. She was expected to recover.

Police took William Ray, 28, and another porter employed at the theater, to the hospital. Foley said the girl identified Ray as her assailant, and Detective Martin Fitzpatrick then quoted him as admitting that he beat her with a brick when she repelled him.

The girl, motherless daughter of a railroad flagman, "skipped" school yesterday morning and went to the theater. She said Ray enticed her into the basement with promises of autographed pictures of movie stars.

Lynchings-1937
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6 6

North Carolina.

5789

Mooresville, N. C. Enterprise
August 12, 1937

Mark Another for Tar Heel Justice

A dispatch to *The Journal* from Mooresville tells of the success of Iredell officers in removing a Negro prisoner suspected of committing criminal assault upon a white woman, to a place beyond reach of mob violence.

It is very encouraging to remark the increasing success which North Carolina officers are meeting in this endeavor. More significant, however, is the fact that they are coming more and more to the making of bona fide attempts to preserve the lives of their prisoners in this manner.

The success they meet proves very clearly that "it can be done." This state has its share of hot-headed and unthinking "defenders of morals," who are ready to invoke the decision of Judge Lynch in affairs of this sort. But in recent years we have had very few lynchings.

This has been due in great measure to the courage and discretion of sheriffs and police officers. And odd as it may appear, the decrease in the number of lynchings apparently has been followed by a decrease in the number of those attacks which too often cause the upswing of the mob.

As time goes on and the agencies of the law demonstrate their ability to handle all violations of the criminal code promptly and with due regard to the highest ends of justice, no doubt but that Judge Lynch will slowly but surely fade from the Southern scene. But while the educational process designed to replace mob psychology with a rational adherence to the letter and spirit of the law is gradually dissolving the mob philosophy, peace officers will stand out as the most potent enemies of Judge Lynch. They are the fore-runners who must prepare the way for a new deal in Southern sociology.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
August 4, 1937

IREDELL COMMENDED

Newspapers throughout North Carolina have said some very nice things about the Iredell county officers and Judge Rousseau in the arrest, trial and conviction of Walter Caldwell, negro rapist. The culprit was captured within an hour after the commission of the deed; he was secluded from any would-be mob violence and brought to trial on Tuesday afternoon, the third day following the rape, and before midnight of the day of his conviction he was landed on death row in Raleigh to await execution by lethal gas on September 10th, 1937. One paper, it was learned, the Raleigh News and Observer, charged the Iredell authorities with "railroading the negro." If the News and Observer cannot stand swift justice on a person who admits his dastardly deed, then the editor of that paper would continue the practice of long-drawn out proceedings perhaps just to give the lawyers like Liebowitz, the New York lawyer, a chance to make heroes rather than criminals out of such men as Caldwell. "Preacher" Caldwell was not "railroaded through the court," but was given a fair and impartial trial, if such a thing can be done after a confession to the horrible crime.

Lynchings-1937
Rape,-Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

North Carolina.

5790

Negro-Did-It Case Flops In Twin City; Police Lack Clue After 30 Day Manhunt

Winston-Salem Authorities Believe Attacker To Be Disguised White Man; Three White and Two Negro Assaults Credited To Him

(Special to Journal and Guide)

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.—Another Negro-did-it crime bids fair to fizzle out. After being baffled with a series of five criminal assaults over a period of a month, local police officers have at last decided to give some consideration to the possibility that the attacker might be a white man, rather than a "light colored Negro" as has been reported.

The testimony of a 23-year old white victim that the attacker might have been a Negro "but that he did not smell like a Negro" was only one of the unusual descriptions of the man police believe to be a sex-crazed criminal.

TWO COLORED, THREE WHITE

After close questioning of all of the victims of the assaults, two white girls, one colored girl, one white woman, and one colored woman, police were in doubt as to the racial identity of the man they sought.

Further evidence to support their theory that the attacker may have been white with a facial color disguise, is the fact that a police dragnet all over the Negro section of the twin city, accompanied by the operation of the usual system of police stool pigeons in the Negro section, has failed in a month to reveal a single worthwhile clue.

Other reasons for the new line of attack in this sensational manhunt are the unusual characteristics of the attacker. He is said to have used exceptionally good English, with an accent not ordinarily associated with Negro speech; he is moderately well dressed; and he has facial characteristics, generally identified as Nordic.

DESCRIPTIONS SAME

In all five cases of assault reported since December 4, when the first occurred, the descriptions of the villain, offered by the women attacked, have been parallel.

After listening to all of the stories, local authorities have concluded that the attacker usually picks out some woman accompanied by one or more men; that he uses a gun to force the victim, along with her male escort, to some prearranged spot; that he forces the male companion, at the point of a pistol, to turn his back while he commits the assault; that he is very familiar with the borderline Negro and white residential sections of this city; and that with the exception of one attack, all have been committed on or near colored school here.

It is said that the attacker is given to boasting, and that on two occasions he has warned victims against reporting the crimes to police boasting that he had already committed a murder.

Police have arrested scores of "suspects" in the case but have been unable to hold them for lack of evidence. In desperation the officers have outlined a new strategy. They will seek to locate a white attacker who uses color on his face to disguise his identity.

Authorities have been unceasing in their efforts to locate the criminal and have assigned several of the best detectives on the force to the case. Despite this huge dragnet, however, nothing materially significant has shown up in the last 30 days. Officers are hoping for a "break" in the case in the near future.

The first assault occurred on the yard of a Negro school on Dec 4. A 15-year old white girl was the victim. Two weeks later a Negro girl was attacked a few hundred yards from the same school. On Sunday night, Dec. 20, a Negro woman, acompanied by a male companion, was similarly attacked within a stone's throw of the school. The fourth victim of the man was a 17-year old white girl and the fifth victim was a 23-year old white woman.

There were 21 criminal assaults reported here during the past year. Twelve of these were solved by arrests, according to files in the local police headquarters.

MAN IS HUNTED IN ASSAULT CASES

Winston-Salem Is Combed by Special Police Details

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Jan. 3. (AP)—Special police details combed Winston-Salem tonight in search of a man to whom authorities attributed a series of five point-blank criminal assaults.

The crimes, all in the Negro neighborhood and all following similar routine, began a month ago when a 14-year-old white girl reported a negro forced her and a boy friend from their parked car and assaulted her while holding her companion at bay with a pistol.

Each time since then the victims, two white and two negro, have been girls accompanied by escorts who were handled in similar manner, and since that time police have begun to lean to the theory that a disguised white man, and not a negro, was responsible.

Two weeks after the first report, a negro girl reported she was attacked a few hundred yards from the school grounds where the first crime occurred. The next Sunday night, December 20, a negro woman made an identical report. The story was the same in the case of a 17-year-old white girl on December 22. The fifth assault was reported a week ago tonight, but occurred at some distance from the scenes of the others, although the 23-year-old girl's companion again was held off with a pistol, his back turned.

Strange Judicial Reasoning

A white woman in North Carolina last week admitted that she was not certain that a man awaiting execution on a charge of attacking her was the right man, after all.

Upon his confession, the committing judge commuted the death sentence to one of life imprisonment.

Strange reasoning, indeed, whereby the learned jurist can doom a man to life behind prison bars, a man, who by his accuser's testimony should be declared an innocent and a free man.

South Carolina.

Lynchings-1937

Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5791

York, S. C. Enquirer
January 12, 1937

— Isaac Scott, a negro 30 years old, attempted to assault a school teacher in Florence county and was taken from two deputy sheriffs after his arrest, by an angry mob. The sheriff and the father of the teacher pleaded with the crowd not to lynch the negro, and finally the mob turned him back to the officers, who put him in the county jail. The negro said he was drunk and did not know what he was doing, nor where he was, when he crawled into the bed of the young teacher.

NEGRO ARRESTED IN ASSAULT CASE

Federal Officers Help Nab Member of Widely Known Quartet in South Carolina

AIKEN, S. C., Oct. 10 (AP)—Police Chief J. E. George, working in collaboration with an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced tonight the arrest of a Negro whom he said was wanted by Kentucky authorities for "rape of a white woman and armed robbery."

10-11-37

Chief George said the arrest climaxed a search for the Negro which started last August. The FBI, he said, had been working on the case since Sept. 1.

He named the Negro as Harold Van Venison, alias Will Horace, and said the Negro was a member of a widely-known Covington, Ky., Negro quartet which formerly gave broadcasts at Cincinnati and Covington.

Chief George said he was advised by George E. Langley, chief of the Kenyon (Covington) county police, that Kentucky authorities will arrive in Akin late tomorrow ann would come prepared to lay requisition papers before Gov. Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina.

Chief George said the Negro came to Aiken late in September and had been working in local cotton fields. Last night, he said, three officers were detailed to watch the home of the Negro's cousin. After an all-night vigil, the officers made the arrest and lodged the Negro in the Aiken jail.

George quoted the Negro as saying he was from Covington, but the Negro denied the crime, he said, saying that he had loaned his automobile to another Negro on the night of the crime.

A substantial reward had been posted for the Negro's arrest, George said.

Tennessee.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

5792

HAT LEADS TO ARREST OF NEGRO FOR ATTACK

Arthur Mosby, 25, Admits Assault On White Woman

12-7-37

Memphis Press

TALKS FREELY OF CRIME

Forced Victim Into Cotton Field Despite Her Struggles —Taken In Custody Four Hours Later

Following the clue of a hat dropped by the attacker, police early yesterday morning obtained a confession to the criminal assault on Mrs. Fred L. Hood, 40, of 1038 Rose, four hours after the crime was committed on Trevant near South Parkway.

In custody was Arthur Mosby, negro, 25, of 1282 Grand, who told officers and newspaper men he was guilty and wanted to make full confession. Arraigned in City Court yesterday he pleaded guilty to criminal assault charges and was bound over to the state.

Forced Into Field

Mrs. Hood was attacked about 10:30 o'clock Friday night while walking near her husband's store with her son, Fred L. Hood, Jr., 10. She was forced into a cotton field despite struggles during which she bit the attacker's finger.

Lieut. Miller and Sergts. Clark and Kennedy found a brown felt hat at the scene. They took it to a negro in the neighborhood, who said he recognized it as belonging to Mosby. They arrested Mosby at his home, where they said he freely admitted the crime. One of his fingers was bleeding, apparently from a bite, when he was arrested.

Identified By Victim

Later he was taken to the Hood home, where Mrs. Hood was positive in her identification. Mosby said he once served six months for shoplifting. He is an employe of the Memphis Power & Light Co.

Capt. Frank Glisson said an investigation is being made of the possibility of Mosby's connection with previous similar crimes, but that so far none is apparent.

Police Investigate Another Attack

Police yesterday were investigating the reported attack on Miss Edna Gray, 23, of 1264 White, who Friday night told officials she and her escort, Charles Black, 26, of 852 Thomas, were held up by two white men, one of whom assaulted her.

In a detailed statement to Sergts. McGee and Getz yesterday, Mr. Black said the men appeared beside his car as the couple were leaving a theater on Jackson, forced them at pistol point to drive to a secluded place north of the Vollintine golf course, robbed him and attacked his companion.

He said the original report that he and the young woman were on the golf course when held up was erroneous. Miss Gray yesterday was under a physician's care.

Lynchings-1937
Rape: Alleged Attacks by Negroes.

Virginia

5793

Girl's Tale of Attack By Negro Proven Lie

DANVILLE, Va., Feb. 24 (ANP).—Another instance of perverted truth, in other words, a plain, unadulterated lie, was revealed last week by police when what appeared to be one of the gravest crimes in recent Danville history was found to be absolutely false.

Last Friday night police rushed to a cafe on North Main street where it was said a young white woman, Josephine Martin, had reported she had been attacked at the old fair grounds by a Negro during the absence of her escort, who had gone to get aid in towing out his car, which was mired in the mud.

After prolonged questioning by Police Lieutenants Haraway and Mayberry, an entirely new set of facts was revealed, the girl finally admitting her first story was untrue. The case was dropped when it was found that she had not been the victim of an attack.

The girl's fabricated story recalled a similar case in Alton, Va., last year, in which a white woman declared a Negro had entered her home, thrown a sack over her head, and attacked her. Police immediately spread out a dragnet, bringing in every Negro who happened to be near the woman's home, but later, doubting her story, questioned the woman, asking her if the attacker threw a sack over her head, just how did she know it was a Negro. "Because he smelled like one," was her startling reply. Physicians examined her, said she had not been molested, and police dropped the case.

Instances such as the two just related, where designing white women can jeopardize the lives of innocent colored citizens, constitute the best argument for an effective Federal anti-lynch law, Negro leaders were quick to point out.

POOLE CONVICTED IN SECOND TRIAL FOR PHONING VA. WHITE WOMAN

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ALEXANDRIA — Richard W. Poole, youthful Alexandrian, who appealed from a decision of the police court for alleged disorderly conduct, was found guilty of that charge for the second time by a jury and given a heavier fine of $150 and 30 days in the city jail. The new trial was Wednesday.

Poole, who is 22 years old and gave his address as the 300 block of North Patrick Street, was fined $100 and $3 costs by Judge Reese Duncan in police court on a disorderly conduct charge several weeks ago, after private trial. He had been arrested by police on a complaint of Mrs. Margaret Dreifus, white, who said the youth telephoned her at her home and requested her to meet him on a street corner.

Young Poole was arrested June 5 at the corner of Commerce and Payne Streets by two policemen on suspicion of having made the call to the Dreifus woman.

Bond Raised

Immediately after the jury returned its verdict, Poole's bond was increased from $500 to $1,000 by Judge William P. Woolls, who presided.

The prosecution of the case was conducted by City Attorney Carl L. Budwesky, assisted by Attorney T. Brooke Howard. The defense was represented by Attorney Alfred H. Collins.

Attorney Collins, after the verdict was reached, moved to set aside the verdict as contrary to the law and evidence, which was overruled. He indicated that he would seek a writ of error in the state court of appeals. Poole afterwards gave $1,000 bail bond. He had been out on $500 bond since his appeal was noted.

Jury All White

The ordinance under which Poole was convicted is known as City Ordinance No. 70, and under its provisions the maximum that can be imposed for what is designated as "disorderly conduct" is $500 and 30 days in jail.

The jury was composed of M. B. Shiflett, foreman; Harry Fedder, L. F. Bargamin, St. Clair D. Shelton, B. Weil, George Nalls and R. E. Sweeney, all white.

About seventy-five persons were in court, among whom were about twenty colored.

The white woman and Poole denied knowing each other at the trial. It is generally known, however, that the woman is the daughter of the late Dr. Duncan, who conducted a drug store in a colored neighborhood near Poole's home.

Alabama.

Lynchings- 1937
Rape by Whites.

5794

ALA. CITIZENS OPEN FIGHT ON POLICE HUSHUP

White Merchant Caught Parked With Child

6-5-37

MOBILE, Ala., June 4—An unprecedented interest in the question of protecting Race womanhood from further debauchery by white men is being manifested by citizens here as a result of the action of several Race youths, on charge that on last Tuesday night they trapped Charles King, white, manager of the Pike and Dragon theatres, and other businesses in the heart of the local black belt, in a compromising position with Edna Farley, a Race girl 15 years of age, in an automobile obscured in the darkness of a remote alley. The youths state that they sought the arrest of King by white police officers on the beat, who refused to do so without a warrant.

Two days later circulars were found in many sections of the city advising Race patrons to stay away from all places operated by King, as a protest against the white man's alleged misconduct. Interest was intensified when the young men who requested his arrest were themselves arrested without warrants. Police officers are suspected of giving aid to King in an attempt to coerce and intimidate citizens into silence about the affair.

King employed counsel to prosecute the youths, and warrants charging libel were later issued against Jimmy Anderson and Edgerton D. Brown, two of the four youths held, in an effort to connect them with the distribution of the circulars.

Because of the principle involved the local NAACP, backed by the ministers and citizens in all walks of life, entered the case and are defending the young men. "We are determined to carry the case to the highest court of the land, if necessary, to seek justice for the Race," one prominent minister asserted.

A campaign will be inaugurated by a group of citizens to have all Race members realize they must refuse to support white people not respecting Race womanhood. There is a growing resentment against the hypocrisy of great numbers of whites throughout the South who by day preach "racial purity" and the inferiority of blacks, and are vehemently opposed to the intermingling of the blacks and whites, but who show there true colors by carrying on clandestine and illicit affairs with Race women under the protection of the shadows of night. With approximately one-fourth of the Race population being almost white, and three-fourths or more having an infusion of white blood, one wonders whom does the southern white man seek to fool with his asinine rantings on the race question.

Girl Identifies Man In Robbery-Assault

Advertiser
7-31-37
Montgomery

Dothan Couple Victims Of Night Prowlers

DOTHAN, ALA., July 31—(AP)—Chief Deputy D. G. Watford said tonight one of two men held without bond on highway robbery charges had been identified by an unnamed girl as attacking her last night while she and a companion were parked on the outskirts of Dothan.

Their arraignment has been set for July 17.

The men, Lewis Forrester, 19, and Roy Medley, 27, were arrested at their homes on descriptions furnished by Carleton Harrison, operator of a funeral home, who said Medley forced his girl companion into a wooded section while Forrester held him at bay with a gun.

Deputy Watford said a physician's report showed the young girl had been attacked.

Harrison told police officials the two men accosted him as he was parked in his automobile about 10:30 last night, demanding his money and valuables.

As the girl left the car with Medley, Harrison said he grappled with Forrester and escaped.

The young woman told police Medley brought her to the edge of town after attacking her. She telephoned authorities.

TWO GEORGIA GIRLS LURED BY ATTACKER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 6.—(UP)—Police tonight searched for a nattily dressed man who won the confidence of three small girls and then carried them to a thicket where he criminally assaulted the youngest.

The victim of the criminal attack was five years old. The other girls were aged 11 and 8, both of Rome, Ga.

The man offered to take them riding, the girls said.

ASSAULT BAIL GRANTED

W. W. Hill was at liberty on $1500 bail today in connection with a charge of criminally assaulting a 14-year-old girl. Bond was fixed by Judge H. B. Abernethy, in County Court of Misdemeanors yesterday. Hill was arrested several days ago by city detectives.

200 ANGRY CITIZENS THREATEN LYNCHING

Courier

Ire of Birmingham Mob Aroused by Story of Woman Who Said Three Whites Attacked Her

11-16-37

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 14—Four white men are in the local jail [illegible] Alvin Hill is in the hospital, following a near-riot which occurred here Monday.

A mob of 500 angry colored citizens, who were told by a sobbing young woman that she had been raped by three white men near the Bradford mines, was dispersed by deputies and State highway patrolmen. The storekeeper, one of the men allegedly accused, is said to have shot Hill in the chest after Hill and five others had blocked his car in which it is said he was trying to escape.

The storekeeper is among those arrested.

Hold B'ham White Man In Attack; Two Freed

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—Judge H. B. Abernathy dismissed charges of assault against 2 white men, Roy and Lloyd Isbell of Bradford, last Thursday growing out of charges that the two brothers, in company with a third brother, molested a colored woman October 9, in the little mining town. The brothers had been at liberty under $500 bail.

At the same time the judge ordered the case of Boyd Isbell, the third brother, placed before the Grand Jury for investigation. Boyd was released under $500 bail.

The court continued the case of Clarence Higginbotham, white, 26, whose arrest resulted from ill feeling in the mining community following the incident. Higginbotham is accused of shooting Alvin Hill, young miner of that section who attempted to aid the white man in getting his car out of a ditch on the Sunday following the assault. Hill is in a Birmingham hospital slowly recovering.

Feeling ran high following a report that three white youths, at the point of pistols, had assaulted a colored girl. It brought several cars of deputies from Birmingham and sheriffs from several near-by towns. A mob of nearly 200 men sought the white youths and dispersed only when informed that justice would be done in the case and that the white youths had been placed in jail.

According to reliable reports of the assault, the girl was riding in a car with three young men who stopped to purchase some whiskey at a white store. While one of their number was making a purchase two white men came up and ordered the remaining youths from the car at the point of pistols and then carried the pretty brown-skinned girl into the woods and assaulted her.

Feeling ran high again in the small mining community following release of the two youths last Thursday.

YOUTH MAY TESTIFY IN HIS OWN DEFENSE

Girls Under 12 Accuse Him Of Molesting Them

Birmingham
12-15-37

Gordon Montgomery, 21-year-old Birmingham youth, was expected to take the witness stand in Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court today to deny the accusations of three small girls that he took them into the woods last September and molested them.

Montgomery, son of a hotel owner, is charged in three indictments with carnal knowledge of a girl under 12. The ages of the girls—ranging from five to eight—makes the charge a capital offense, attaches in the solicitor's office said.

Attempting to establish an alibi for Montgomery, defense counsel brought Dan Breeden to the stand. The witness testified he saw Montgomery at the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., 20th-st and Third-av, s, between noon and 1 p. m. on the day that the incident is alleged to have occurred.

The three little girls each took the witness stand late yesterday and identified Montgomery as "the man in the brown suit" who, they said, took them from East Lake Park in his car to a wooded section on Red Mountain and molested them.

Testimony of one of the girls was interrupted when a sharp exchange of words between Judge Wheeler and Morel Montgomery, defense attorney, resulted in the latter being fined $50 for contempt of court.

The tilt arose when Mr. Montgomery, standing by the witness chair cross-examining one of the child's witnesses, was ordered by Judge Wheeler to take his seat at counsel table.

"I'm running this trial—go have a seat," the judge ordered.

Accused By Girls

GORDON MONTGOMERY

"I know you're running this, but I don't like the way you're doing it," Mr. Montgomery replied as he walked to his seat.

Further exchange of words ensued, then the attorney added:

"I don't know whether your honor is prejudiced in this matter or not. It certainly seems as if you are, the way your honor is trying to conduct this trial."

"Mr. Montgomery, I fine you $50 for contempt of court," Judge Wheeler shot back.

The defense attorney said today he would offer not only the defendant's denial of the charges but also testimony of other witnesses intended to show that the accused youth was not at East Lake Park on the day in question.

"We contend it's a case of mistaken identity," he declared.

Alabama.

Lynchings-1937
Rape by Whites.

5795

Birmingham, Ala. Post
October 11, 1937

THREE HELD IN ATTACK REPORT

Negro Wounded As Result Of Alleged Threat To Lynch White Men

Tension which followed threats by a mob of Negroes to lynch three white men for an alleged attempt to criminally assault a Negro woman is believed to have led to the shooting of a Negro near Bradford Mines in the northern part of the county late yesterday.

Alvin Hill "in self-defense."

Higginbotham was quoted as saying that three white men came to his place Saturday night and forced a Negro woman into the woods nearby at the point of a pistol while one of the woman's four male companions was inside his place.

Forced Into Ditch

The Negro woman charged the white men attempted to assault her, and a group of Negroes formed, threatening to lynch the white men if they were not arrested.

While tension from the incident still pervaded the countryside, Higginbotham charged that four Negroes in an auto forced his car from the highway into a ditch yesterday afternoon and that Hill, one of the Negroes, "reached for his hip pocket like he was going to shoot."

Hill charged that Higginbotham shot him twice with a 45 caliber pistol when he and his four companions offered to help him get his car out of the ditch. Hill was in a serious condition in Norwood Hospital today.

Three Arrested

Lloyd Isbell, 26, Roy Isbell, 25, and Boyd Isbell, 22, brothers, of Blount County, were the men arrested on charges of assault with intent to ravish and lodged in County Jail in connection with the alleged attempted assault on the woman.

When Higginbotham surrendered, five hours after the shooting, he said that when the Negroes ran his car into the ditch, he was afraid they were going to shoot him. He was charged with assault with intent to murder.

Approximately 150 Negroes assembled near the place where the attempted assault was said to have occurred, according to F. L. Brittain, special police officer of the Alabama By-Prodducts Corp., operators of the mines.

Race Clash Flares At Bradford Mines

Four White Men Jailed; Negro Wounded

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 10.—(AP)—Four white men were held in jail tonight and a negro lay wounded in a hospital, the results of a near riot and charges three white men assaulted a negro woman near Bradford Mines early today.

Three of the men were charged with attempted assault and the other with assault with intent to murder in the wounding of the negro, Alvin Hill, who was shot in the chest with a pistol. The man arrested in the shooting is a Bradford storekeeper and the others live in the mining camp.

Deputy Sheriff C. B. Jones said today a number of deputies and State highway patrolmen went to Bradford when an angry mob of negroes gathered after the woman said she was attacked. He said a physician who examined the woman said she had not been attacked.

Chief Deputy Sheriff C. E. McCoombs said he was told by witnesses that the storekeeper shot the negro after Hill and five other negroes blocked his car and Hill advanced on the white man with a pistol.

McCoombs said he was told the six negroes had chased the man and threatened him. Deputies said the storekeeper and several negroes were in an altercation in the white man's store after the crowd of negroes gathered early today.

There were about 200 negroes in the mob, but most of them had dispersed when the deputies arrived at the mining camp. The storekeeper surrendered to officers tonight. The others were arrested today.

Officers who went to Bradford when Hill was shot late today said there were no other evidences of trouble.

Lynchings-1937
6
Rape by Whites.

Florida.

5796

Fla. Jails White Man for Attack on Negro Woman

BRISTOL, Fla. (CNA — A young white man was arrested here this week, charged with criminally assaulting a Negro woman.

Deputy Sheriff H. H. Harroll said the man gave his name as Sy Galvin of Jersey City, N. J., who is employed at a CCC camp near Bristol was arrested in Jacksonville and brought to Bristol on a warrant issued on information furnished by the woman who was assaulted. Her name was not made public.

He is now being held in the Liberty County jail. A preliminary hearing is being arranged to decide whether he shall be held for the October grand jury or freed. No bond has been set.

The Negro citizens of Bristol and the nearby countryside are intensely interested in the case.

Deputy Sheriff Harrel said he had never known of a similar case against a white man in this section of the country.

Lynchings-1937
Rape by Whites.

General.

5797

News Stories Disclose South's "High Culture"

SEEK SIX WHITE YOUTHS FOR ATTACK ON FARM GIRL

CHEHAW, S. C., Aug. 5—(Special)—County authorities are still searching for six white youths who late Tuesday afternoon took a 15-year-old farm girl to ride in an automobile, assaulted her and left her beside a road near her home. The victim of the mass attack is still under treatment by physicians.

According to the account of what occurred, that was given by the girl to officers, the youths, none of whom she knew, offered her a ride in their car, and the attacks occurred after they had driven about 20 miles into the country. They then ordered her to get out of the automobile and drove off leaving her there, where she was soon found and brought home by a passing motorist, accompanied by her parents who searched for her.

ARRESTED WITH CRIMINAL ATTACK ON SISTER-IN-LAW

GREENUP, Ky., Aug. 5—(Special)—Charged with criminally attacking his 14-year-old sister-in-law, Grace Blanton, 20, white [illegible] is being held without bond to await action of the grand jury which will convene in September.

After he had been ordered held by County Judge J. K. Sheppard, and was being taken to jail by a deputy sheriff, Blanton squirmed out of the officer's grasp and, running at top speed to the Little Sandy River, with the deputy firing at him, plunged into the stream, swam across and disappeared in the woods bordering the stream.

He was later found hiding in the top of a large tree and lynched in the crowd.

WHITE FATHER CONVICTED OF ENSLAVING DAUGHTERS

MIAMI, Fla., Aug 5—(Special)—Convicted of incest for immoral relations with his own daughters, aged 13 and 16, respectively, and also of holding them in virtual white slavery, forcing them to submit to improper relations with other men for which he collected a small fee, Cuthbert Cogdill, 53, white barber, has been sentenced to 50 years in the penitentiary. Codgill pleaded guilty to all charges.

Disregarding the father's plea for mercy, Judge Ben C. Willard of the Criminal Court, declared in passing sentence that in his judgment the longest Cogdill remains in prison the better off both he and society will be.

Why Don't Lynch Mobs "Throw Some Parties" To Protect Children?

Bond Set At $5,000

COOKEVILLE, Tenn., Oct. 14—(Special)—Following a habeas corpus hearing held here Tuesday, Judge O. K. Holladay set bond for Hal Head, 39, a white man charged with criminal assault, at $5,000.

Head is alleged to have criminally attacked an 11-year-old white girl in the Lickfork community of Jackson county, and in default of bond will be held in jail pending grand jury action.

Even The Little Children

RICHMOND, Va., Oct. 14—(Special)—Floyd

Two Men Attack Girl

LENOIR, N. C., Oct. 14—(Special)—In a warrant sworn out here by Lula Belle Smith, 16, charges that they attempted to criminally assault her have been brought against James Beach and Franzlie Bush, both members of colored white families.

19, white Chesterfield county youth is being held in the Henrico county jail on a charge of attempting to criminally assault and beating into unconsciousness, a three-year-old white girl after dragging her into a wooded swamp. According to authorities, Smith confessed to beating the child being unable to explain why he had done so, but denied attempting to attack her.

The opinion was expressed by investigators, that from the nature of the victim's injuries, she had apparently been picked up by the feet and her head and body beaten against a tree. Her attending physician reported the child had sustained an injury to her spine, a broken cheekbone and collarbone, and that her face and body bore many cuts and bruises, but that she had not been criminally assulted.

The warrant charges that the two youths picked up the young girl in an automobile while she was on her way home from school, promising to take her to her residence, but instead drove far out in the country on a lonely road where while one of them held her, the other attempted to commit the attack. Escaping from them she made her way home afoot, reported what had occurred to her parents, and the swearing out of the warrant followed. Bush and Beach have disappeared.

Lynchings-1937
Rape by Whites.

Georgia.

5798

TWO YOUNG GIRLS ATTACKED BY MAN

Telegraph

Seven-Year-Old White Child and Negro, 9, Are Assaulted in Waycross

2-18-37

WAYCROSS, Ga., Feb. 17 (AP)—A 7-year-old white girl was reported in serious condition tonight at a hospital here from an assault by an unidentified white man.

Sheriff Henry J. Sweat said the attack was the seccnd reported to his office within an hour. He said a 9-year-old Negro girl was attacked in another part of town and that both apparently were victims of the same man.

Sweat and Chief of Police Arthur Yawn said they were following clues which indicated an early arrest.

The officers said the girls told them they were lured into a small truck by a driver who promised to take them home.

WHITE TENANT FARMER HELD AS ATTACKER

Atlanta Journal

4-3-37

DUBLIN, Ga., July 1—(Special)—Silvey Motes, white tenant farmer, is being held in the Johnson County jail on a charge of criminally assaulting a 12-year-old white girl. Motes was committed to jail following a hearing before Justice R. R. Martin, in Wrightsville, and will be prosecuted by Solicitor General J. Roy Rowland. The accused who lives with his brother near Adrian, will be defended by the law firm of Claxton and Claxton.

Besides the charge of criminally assaulting the child, it was further alleged in the testimony submitted, that the victim, who spent two months in a hospital following the attack, contracted a venereal disease from her assailant as a further result of it. Though the alleged assault took place some time ago, charges have just been brought against Motes, who was bound over without bail to await action by the grand jury.

TWO MEN ARE ACCUSED OF CRIMINAL ASSAULT

Charged with assault and battery and a criminal atack on a 15-year-old East Point girl, a Fort McPherson soldier and a civilian were in [illegible] yesterday.

Constitution

Warrants for the arrest of R. [illegible] Blinn, of Fort McPherson, and Thurman Strickland, of 13[illegible] Campbellton road, were issued yesterday morning by Justice of the Peace Dan Thompson, of East Point. The men are being held under $5,000 bond each.

The girl went riding with the two men Saturday night, according to Judge Thompson, and was not returned to her home until Monday morning, following the alleged attack at a tourist camp on Jackson lake in Butts county.

Preliminary trials for the men will be given any time they request it, the judge said. If the suspects are held for the grand jury, the cases will be referred to the Butts county circuit.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Rape by Whites.

Illinois.

5799

WHITE MAN ADMITS
ASSAULT CHARGED
BY COPS TO 'NEGRO'

Communist News Agency
9-27-37 ------

CHICAGO, Sept.--(CNA)- One of a number of assaults on white women, attributed by Chicago police to "an unidentified Negro" was solved this week with the police announcement that Thomas McCall, white business man, had confessed he was the brick-carrying invader who attacked Virginia Austin, 25-year-old artist and scuptor of New York City, Aug. 15, in her room at a hotel here.

New York, N.Y.

Seven white Chicago women have been beaten with bricks in hotels and hospitals in the last year and a half. In each case, the police, failing to solve the crimes, deliberately threw suspicion on the Negro people. The attack on Miss Austin was the second such in the same hotel. On Sept. 25, 1936, Alda Deery, 25, an actress, was beaten there.

McCall has lived at the hotel for five years. A business man, he was never under police suspicion until last Saturday after Natalie Ortuso, 16, reported seeing a man on the fire escape outside her window. Her description of the prowler led to McCalls arrest, identification and confession.

Lynchings—1937
6
Rape by Whites.

New York

5800

BROOKLYN MOB BEATS BROTHER OF ATTACKER"

Mirror
Tabloid
News

Girl, Nine, Testifies Against Employee in Neighborhood

12-11-37

Hell broke loose in Brooklyn last week when a nineteen-year-old white youth allegedly criminally attacked a five-year-old girl. Residents of the community, wrapped in a white heat over the atrocity, took the law into their own hands and beat the accused man's brother within an inch of his life.

Anna Elizabeth Sampson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sampson, 365 Cumberland avenue, Brooklyn, was allegedly lured into a dark closet of a stationery store located at 730 Fulton street, last Monday by Peter Kanellakis, with a promise of a stick of candy.

Nothing more vile ever came into little Anna's life. Her family, consisting of her mother and father, two brothers and a sister, are on relief and there is no chance for luxury in the dark, musty room where they all must eat and sleep.

Mother Tells Story.

And so she followed Peter Kanellakis to the closet. What happened in the closet is best told by the child's mother, in whose eyes still lurks fear engendered by Anna's narrow escape with her life, and a great, encompassing anger:

"My sister-in-law sent Anna to the store to get some cigarettes," she told the Amsterdam News reporter Monday. "Although she stayed longer than she should, I did not go to look for her because I believed that at any moment she would return.

"When she finally came, she was crying. I asked her what the trouble was and she told me, 'The candy store man gave me some candy and carried me in the closet and——.'

"I carried Anna back to the candy store," Mrs. Sampson continued, "and she identified the man. I asked him what he did to my child. He answered, 'I didn't do anything to her.' But when I again asked Anna, she repeated the same story she had already told me. When I took her back home, I called the police."

By the time the police and an ambulance from the Jewish Hospital, Classon avenue and St. Mark's place, arrived on the scene, news of the dastardly crime had spread like wildfire throughout the neighborhood, which is predominantly Negro, and an angry, seething mob of approximately 500 persons gathered before the rooming house where the Sampsons live.

Threaten Assailant.

The physician who first examined little Anna declared that rape had been attempted. When the crowd collected before the house heard his diagnosis, the cry went up:

"It's rape! Let's get that dirty —— and give him what he deserves."

12-11-37

The police escorted the child and her parents to the store and asked Anna to identify the man who attacked her. Unhesitatingly, she pointed out Peter Kannelakis, whose father owns the store, and also showed the officers the closet where the alleged crime was committed.

It was then, only according to Mrs. Sampson, that the youth said:

"I did it."

The indignation of the mob, trying to push its way into the small store, rose to a fever pitch and police had their hands full attempting to keep them back with drawn guns.

More police quickly appeared, forming a cordon around Kannelakis to protect him from the angry crowd.

Released in $1,000 Bail.

"Let us to him," they cried. "We'll tear him to pieces."

Detective Dyer Shield placed the accused man under arrest and rushed him to the Eighty-eighth Precinct, Sixth avenue and Bergen street, Brooklyn. He was arraigned the following morning on a criminal assault charge in Magistrates Court, Forty-third street and Fourth avenue, at which time he was released under $1,000 bail for a hearing in the same court on Thursday, December 9.

The Children's Aid Society, Boerum place and Schemerhorn street, becoming interested in the case, sent a woman physician to examine little Anna last Tuesday. Her verdict was that the child was suffering from "internal bruises."

Overnight the wrath of the neighborhood was almost out of control. All over the streets could be heard, "He doesn't deserve to live. He should be killed."

Although the police, fearing violence, had closed the stationery store the preceding evening, it was opened the following day by Gus Kannelakis, brother of the accused youth. He looks startlingly like Peter and it was soon spread through the neighborhood that Peter was in the store.

Attack Brother.

Incensed by the report that Anna's asailant had been released on bail, a mob of men and women caught the brother as he was returning to the store after eating in a Greek restaurant across the street and beat him unmercifully. When he was finally rescued from his attackers, he was rushed to Cumberland Hospital, where he was found to be suffering from a fractured skull and internal injuries. He was still in a critical condition at press time.

Although the Amsterdam News learned from reliable sources that officials were "unable" to pin the crime on Peter alone, George Boston, 32, of 417 Carlton avenue, was placed under arrest by Detective Cohen of the Eighty-eighth Precinct, and charged with felonious assault.

Officials, Papers Quiet.

Miss Ethel Wright, who also lives at the same address, told the police that she and two other witnesses "could prove George's innocence."

At the Eighty-eighth Precinct, officials were singularly quiet about the case and there seems to be an attempt to squelch the story, since none of the Brooklyn daily papers carried an account of the alleged rape, although it is their policy to play up seduction cases involving Negroes.

The Sampsons, who are on relief, live under crowded conditions. The parents and the four children, who are, besides Anna, Jacqueline, 3; George, Jr., 7, and Reginald, 10; live in one crowded room, where all six sleep in two beds. The family uses a community kitchen with other tenants of the house.

COLORED GIRL IS VICTIM IN CASE

Pittsburgh Courier
12-11-37

Brooklyn Police Department To Protect White Youth With Heavy Guard When Case Is Tried — Neighbors Angry.

By EDGAR T. ROUZEAU
Staff Correspondent

BROOKLYN, Dec. 9— The Police Department is taking no chances of having a riot on its hands and will use a heavy guard when Peter Kanellakas, a 19 year old white youth, is arraigned Thursday morning in the ninth district Magistrate Court, charged with raping a four year old colored girl.

Police had to resort to drawn guns on November 29 in rescuing Kanellakas from a candy store at 730 Fulton street, where he was cornered by a mixed mob shortly after the alleged attack. Two days later another mob waylaid a brother of the accussed, George Kanellakas, and beat him up severely, fracturing his skull. A colored defendant, George Boston, of 417 Carlton avenue, was arrested in this case.

According to Mrs. Jeannette Sampson, of 365 Cumberland street, her daughter went to the candy store to buy some candy and was lured to the rear of the establishment by the accused whose father owns the place. A grandmother of the child, Mrs. Sarah Sampson was returning from relief bureau in company with the child's father, George Sampson, when the little victim ran to them crying. She complained of a stomach ache and revealed the assault upon further questioning.

The child was taken back to the store where she immediately identified Peter Kanellakas. Word spread quickly around the neighborhood, and by the time police arrived a huge mob had surrounded the store in which Kanellakas had barricaded himself. Some were trying to force the door. As Kanellakas was brought out several persons tried to reach him and police were forced to draw their guns.

Examination by doctors revealed that the child was ruptured internaly. The Welfare Society is pressing the case. Inasmuch as the white dailies have played up all similar cases in which a Negro was accused, there has been much surprise at the fact that no mention has been made of the present case. On Monday an irate Brooklynite, Peter Jackson, sent the following telegram to the Daily News and Evening Journal:

"Peter Kanellakas, 19, white, will be tried for rape in Ninth District Magistrate Court on Thursday. His victim was a four year old colored girl. Colored residents of Brooklyn and Harlem very much incensed. You are expected to play up this case as you do all similar cases involving Negroes."

Lynchings - 1937
6
Rape by Whites.

Texas.

5801

A Victim Of White Lust, Mind And Health Broken

Broken in body, health and mind, an emaciated, trembling, limping shadow of her former self, she stands a living monument to the unbridled and condoned lust of the white youth in Texas. Miss Nannie Lee Harrison was a comely, dark brown skinned girl with large soulful eyes, slender and a little better than medium height, returning from a visit to her mother at Navasota to her school at Richards, the night five white CCC boys passed the car she and two boys were in, stopped, rushed up, got out of their car and dragged her to the side of the road and ravaged her for two and a half hours; while they took turns keeping the boys off.

The daily papers of the state were as quiet as the tomb about this brutal abuse of the rights and person of an innocent, helpless Negro girl, who committed no offense except being defenseless on the public highway. There was a trial at which the white doctor is said to have testified that the girl had been abused as alleged. The boys told a consistent story of intimidation and abuse. The girl's condition clinched the case against the boys. Despite the activity of the White Men's Union, which had resurrected itself to see that no White man suffers for ravaging a "black gal," [illegible] when some of them were cut for punishment. But nary a word did our good daily press carry across its front page in scare heads about the burly brutes, who brutally attacked this young girl. So far as this case was concerned the daily papers were still speechless.

When Miss Harrison was brought back from Richards the next day the white women of the community were furious and began to excoriate the very devil. But the White Man's union took over and escorted the "good women" out of town.

Believe it or not, with evidence piled high against them and with the boys virtually admitting every sordid detail, they were let off at the district trial with suspended five-year sentences. After the hung jury at the first trial the case had been moved to Leon County. But reporters from the dailies couldn't read the record over there either so that this heinous crime was left a dark secret in Texas's house of crime.

Now turn back the pages of history a few years and see what happened when a Negro was convicted of raping a white woman in a college town twenty-eight miles from the scene of Miss Harrison's terrible experience. With workman-like efficiency the Negro was burned in the nice big electric chair at Huntsville. Then the dailies were tempestuously vociferous with "Black brute" et cetera.

But when these pale faced fiends were on trial for raping a dark skinned girl with the plain stamp of Africa upon her, not even the prosecutor said anything about the depravity of white men, who loved so well the lips of a black girl. One wonders whether there is any real fight against social equality. Here were white men voluntarily seeking the lips of a black girl and a whole community and the daily papers conspiring to back it up by a white-wash.

Miss Harrison is a talented musician and an accomplished mathematician. She is a graduate of Mary Allen Seminary and had taken special courses at Prairie View. She is courageously trying to forget the hell she experienced with there in the woods at the hands of these CCC boys. Physically she is better and can move about. Mentally and spiritually she is probably scarred for life. Oh, yes, the federal government, which might have punished the boys as members of the CCC, made haste and discharged them two days after the incident! Miss Harrison ought enjoy singing "America, my America."

GIRL ACCUSES TWO YOUTHS OF ATTACK

Says They Took Her Away From Two Escorts

By United Press.

MARSHALL, Tex., Sept. 8.—Police reported today they were holding two 17-year-old youths until a special grand jury session reports charges that they kidnaped and criminally assaulted a Shreveport, La., girl.

9-8-37

The boys, who gave their names as Jack Jett of Atlanta, Tex., and Frank Hill of Shreveport, reportedly forced the girl, whose name was withheld, from her own car in which she was riding with two other Shreveport youths, Harold Slovall and Kenneth Eustis.

According to police, the girl said she was driven into Texas and assaulted several times. Officers said an unknown oil man rescued her and reported that she was in a state of undress.

The boys, who fled, were captured shortly after by Texas officers.

Lynchings-1937
Rape by Whites.

Virginia

5802

White Boy, 19, Confesses That He Raped Va. Child

RICHMOND, Va.—[illegible] Smith, 19, white, accused a colored man of the criminal assault of 3-year-old Jean Farmer, whose badly bruised and [illegible] body was found on a [illegible] bank in the deep woods [illegible] Chesterfield County, Sept. 30. After [illegible] questioning by police, Smith, who had pictures of nude women tatooed on his [illegible], confessed that he attacked the child while she played in the woods with her playmate of her [illegible].

Smith first told police that he saw a colored man in the woods in close proximity to where the girl was found and that the colored man committed the crime. The little child, a blonde, [illegible] Virginia, was found with her skull fractured in two or three places, her body bore several other marks of violence. The attack marked the tenth sex crime here, involving children within the last few weeks.

Physicians say that if little Jean recovers, she will probably [illegible] as both of her eye[illegible]

Lynchings- 1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

General Reports, by Records and Research Department.

5812

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
October 18, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
October 21, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 Negro.

Danville, Va., Bee
October 15, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
October 19, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 Negro.

Oneonta, Ala., Democrat
October 21, 1937

There were 137,155 white school children being transported in buses to and from school in 413 cities in 1936. Of this number 97,- are in the elementary grades and 40,256 are in the high school grades. The number of Negroes transported was 2,500.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
October 18, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 Negro.

Greenville, N. C.—Reflector
October 16, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

Mobile, Ala., Register
October 15, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

Tallahassee, Fla. Democrat
October 5, 1937

EIGHTH THIS YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP)—Lynching of a negro near Milton, Fla. was the eighth such occurrence in the south during 1937, records of Tuskegee Institute revealed.

Institute records listed two previous lynchings in Florida, two in Mississippi, and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. AGE-HERALD
OCT. 5, 1937 021

LYNCHING IS EIGHTH

Death Of Negro In Florida Runs Up Southern Total

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Oct. 4—(AP)—Lynching of a Negro near Milton, Fla., Sunday night was the eighth such occurrence in the South during 1937, records of Tuskegee Institute revealed Monday.

Institute records listed two previous lynchings in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Dyersburg, Tenn. Gazette
October 20, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
October 21, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

Anniston, Ala. Star
November 18, 1937

LYNCH LAW IS DISAPPEARING FROM AMERICA

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Rapid Decrease In Mob Deaths

By THOMAS A. DOZIER
United Press Staff Correspondent

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 18—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing in America, records at Tuskegee Institute today showed.

While Congress battled over anti-lynching legislation in Washington Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted Negro college here revealed that in 1937, only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil War.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December—is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935's figure of 20 slain.

Figures kept by the Department of Research and Records at the Negro college since 1882 showed that lynchings have steadily declined during the past 55 years.

The statistics also showed that 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes—were lynched during this period.

Night-riding mobs which spread terror into the hearts of Negroes reached their height in the Reconstruction period which followed the Civil War. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs who sought to take justice in their own hands.

Of these, 160 were Negroes and 51 were whites.

A total of 42 states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi, in the heart of the Deep South, which reported 563 deaths.

Georgia reported 515; Texas, 488; Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343, and Arkansas, 286.

In the North, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey, 1, and Delaware, 1. Several Western states, where lynching for horse-stealing was prevalent, reported many more.

"Records show that in 55 years, only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death for the charge of rape," Work said.

"There were 1,190 persons—97 whites and 1,093 Negroes—put to death on that charge, compared with 3,482 killings for other crimes, thus refuting the assertion that a majority of lynchings are for rape."

Johnson City, Tenn., Press
October 22, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

OFFICERS WINNING FIGHT TO WIPE OUT CRIME OF LYNCHING

Birmingham, Ala.

Congress Battles Over Issue, But Mob Deaths Have Almost Disappeared From America In Last 31 Years —Only Seven So Far In 1937

While Congress battled over an anti-lynching bill today records of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama Negro college, disclosed lynching almost has reached the vanishing point in the United States.

Mobs hung but eight persons in 1936 and seven so far in 1937 compared with 13,000 who were murdered and 36,000 killed by automobiles over the nation.

Since 1882, the first year records were kept, a total of 4672 persons—1289 white persons and 3383 Negroes—have been lynched in the United States.

Peak of Terrorism

Night-riding mobs reached the peak of their terrorism during the period just after the Civil War, killing 776 persons, 475 white persons and 301 Negroes, up until 1886. From then until 1896, 548 white persons, and 1035 Negroes were hanged and shot or burned. From 1897 to 1906 548 white persons and 1035 Negroes were lynched. In the 31 years since then, only 1283 persons were lynched.

As the number of lynchings dropped, the ratio of persons prevented from being lynched rose steadily until 1922.

In 1914, peace officers prevented 24 mob-deaths. In 1921, they stopped 108, in 1922, 114, and in 1923 saved 56. Since then the number of prevented lynchings has dropped almost as fast as the lynchings, totaling 79 in 1936. Since 1914, 1298 lynchings have been prevented.

Contention Refuted

Records show," said Monroe N. Work, director of research at Tuskegee Institute, "that in the 55 years from 1882 to 1937, only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death by mobs for the charge of criminal attack.

"There were 1190 persons, 97 white persons and 1093 Negroes, put to death on that charge, compared with 3482 killed for other crimes, thus refuting the charge the majority of lynchings are for the crime of criminal attack.

"An investigation into causes of lynchings show that over 10 per cent of the Negroes lynched during the period were for such minor offenses as being a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, strike breaking, boasting, vagrancy, insisting on voting, and discussing a lynching."

Cause for Lynchings

During the 55-year period, 1921 persons were lynched for committing homicides, 198 for felonious assault, 908 for criminal assault, 282 for attempted criminal assault, 227 for robbery, 81 for insulting white persons, and 1055 for all other causes.

Records of the institute show that methods of lynchings have changed much with the passing years. In the '90's, many victims were burned alive, but few such instances have occurred in the last 15 years.

Last year's most bizarre death occurred in Marianna, Fla., when townspeople were aroused over the assault and slaying of a 15-year-old girl, whose body was buried in a pigsty.

Lynching Advertised

After the Negro's arrest and confession, a lynching was advertised in the local newspaper for two days. Officers fled with the Negro to Pensacola and from there to Brewton, Ala. The mob, trailing the sheriff in automobiles, stormed the Brewton Jail and took the Negro back to Marianna.

There he was shot and stabbed and hanged from a tree on the spot where the crime occurred, then taken into Marianna, where his body was stretched from a tree on the Courthouse lawn.

In 1935, 20 persons were lynched

eight less than in 1937, and 93 instances where law officers were successful in preventing lynchings.

Nine in the North

Nine of the total were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern communities. Of the total only six were charged with assault or attempted assault.

Only one lynching has occurred in Alabama during either the first or second administration of Governor Graves. When that occurred, the governor ordered impeachment proceedings brought against the sheriff of Henry County for neglect of duty—believed to be the first time in history a Southern governor has taken such action.

The majority of mob deaths occurred in eight states of the Deep South, with Alabama standing fifth, having 343, of which 296 were Negroes and 47 whites.

Six States Have None

Mississippi had the highest total, 563, with 522 Negroes and 41 whites. Georgia was next with 515, 478 Negroes and 37 whites. Texas was third with 488, 345 Negroes and 143 white; while Florida had 272, of which 248 were Negroes, Arkansas 285 with 226 Negroes; Louisiana, 389 with 333 Negroes, and Tennessee, 247, with 200 Negroes and 47 white.

A total of 42 states report lynchings during the period, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticutt reported none.

New York had two, Arizona 29, all white persons, Delaware one, Oregon 21, California 43, Colorado, Idaho 20, Illinois 31, Indiana 47, Iowa 19, Kansas 54, Kentucky 205, Louisiana 389, Maryland 29, Michigan eight, Minnesota nine. Missouri 121, Montana 84, Nebraska 57, Nevada six, New Jersey one, New Mexico 36, North Carolina 98, North Dakota 16, Ohio 26, Oklahoma 123, Pennsylvania eight, South Carolina eight, South Dakota 27, Utah eight, Virginia 99, Washington 26, West Virginia 49, Wisconsin six, Wyoming 85.

Lynchings—1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. — June

5803

TOLEDO OHIO MORNING TIMES
WEDNESDAY JULY 7 1937

Lynchings Should Stop

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute sends out semi-annually statistics of lynchings.

His report, for the first six months of this year, shows there were four lynchings, two less than in the same period last year.

President Patterson's interest in the control of lynchings is self-evident. All four this year were colored men. And Tuskegee is the finest school in the world for the education of the colored race.

Most lynchings occur in the south where the colored man is not always allowed his constitutional rights, which include trial by jury.

There should be no lynchings in a country as civilized as this. We have courts to satisfy justice. And they usually do the same things as the mobs do, but they do not take a man's life until it has been proved beyond doubt that he is guilty of the crime.

There will be lynchings so long as men (and women, for women have been present at some of the most spectacular lynchings) do not control their emotions.

Those who would hang a colored man for a crime of which they are not sure he is guilty should remember that the white men are responsible for the colored man being here. They brought him; he did not come alone, nor did he ask to come.

The courts in the north do their work when racial feeling runs high. And they can do their work in the south as well.

ALBERTVILLE, ALA., BANNER
JULY 8, 1937 J12

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST HALF OF 1937

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number (6) for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1;

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
July 7, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

Tuskegee, Ala., July y6.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Picayune, Miss. Item
July 8, 1937

Lynching Record

Records complied at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research show that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

ONEIDA, TENN., NEWS
JULY 9, 1937 J15

LYNCHING RECORD IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Tuskegee Reports Four Lynchings During Past 6 Months

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months in 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, three; rape, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Georgia one; Mississippi, 2.

TUSKEGEE ALA. NEWS
JULY 8, 1937 J15

Lynching Record For The First Six Months Of 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President.

ROCHESTER N Y DEMO CHRON
THURSDAY JULY 15 1937

Tuskegee President Notes Lynch Facts

Editor Democrat and Chronicle:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

F. D. PATTERSON.
Tuskegee Institute,
Alabama.

[redacted]

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

Editor Bristol Press:-

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

COVINGTON TENN. LEADER (wk)
JULY 8, 1937 J15

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, three; rape, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two.

Blakeley, Ga., News
July 15, 1937

STATISTICS GIVEN ON LYNCHINGS FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1937

Statistics compiled by F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., show that the lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937 totaled four, the same number as for the first six months of both 1935 and 1936, and two less than for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Rosedale, Miss. Democrat
July 8, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS IN 1937

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson, Pres.

Lynchings In First Half of 1937

Tuskegee july 22(C)F. D. Patterson has reported there were four lynchings during the first [illegible] all being colored. Offenses charged were ; murder [illegible] rape; states where lynchings occured were Mississippi ,2: Alabama, [illegible]

San Marcos [illegible], TEX., RECORD
JULY 9, 1837 J20

Four Lynchings Record For Six Months of 1937

According to the records kept by the Tuskegee Institute, negro university of Alabama, there were four lynchings in the United States the first six months of 1937, exactly the same number as was recorded last year. This was two less than the same period in 1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were murder, 3; rape, 1.

COLUMBIANA ALA. REPORTER
JULY 15, 1937 J21

Lynching Record For First Six Months 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936. and 2 less than the number 6 for for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi 2

WICHITA FALLS, TEX., TIMES
JULY 7, 1937 J16

THIS YEAR'S LYNCHINGS

There were only four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. One each in Alabama and Georgia, two in Mississippi, make up the total. The number is about as small as has ever been recorded in a like period, small enough to give weight to the view that public sentiment in the South is making a federal anti-lynching law unnecessary. There is no reason to believe, however, that congress will give heed to the figures. Passage of an anti-lynching law has become a certainty, no matter how good a record may be made. The South has delayed too long in dealing with mob-murders, and it may as well reconcile itself to seeing a federal law passed.

MINERAL WELLS, TEX., [illegible]
JULY 8, 1937 J20

Four Lynchings Reported

The Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, a school for Negro young men and women, each six-months reports through its research department the number of lynchings in the United States. The report for the first six-months of 1937 reached the Index today and lists four lynchings for the six-month period, all Negroes, three for murder and one for rape. There was one each in Alabama and Georgia and two in Mississippi. F. D. Patterson, colored, is president of the Institute.

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

5804

FOUR ARE LYNCHED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS

TUSKEGEE, July 5.—(Special)—Four persons were lynched in the United States in the first six months of 1937, according to a report released by the Department of Research and Records of Tuskegee Institute.

The report stated all the victims were Negroes. Of the number, three were charged with murder and one with rape, the report said. All the lynchings occurred in the South, Alabama and Georgia reporting one victim and Mississippi two, according to the report.

LYNCHING REPORT ISSUED

Tuskegee Department Lists Four Victims During 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—(AP)—The department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during the first six months of both 1935 and 1936 the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the south. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

Tuskegee Reports 4 Lynchings For First Six Months

The records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and research show that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Mississippi, 2 Alabama And Georgia, 1 Each

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — According to records compiled at Tuskegee by its department of Records and Research, there were four lynchings in the United States during the first six months in 1937.

The state of Mississippi leads with two lynchings, which reminds the public of the Duck Hill blow torch lynchings of Roosevelt Townes and "Bootjacks" McDaniels on April 12. Alabama is recorded as having one and Georgia, one. This is the same number that were lynched during the first six months of 1935 and 1936. All of the victims were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1; None of the accused were given a trial in the courts.

Miss. Leading Lynch League

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — Four lynchings of colored persons have occurred within the first six months this year, according to records compiled by the college department of research and records, just made public by President F. D. Patterson.

The States in which the mob murders occurred and the number are: Mississippi, 2; Alabama, 1, and Georgia, 1.

The offenses charged were murder, 3, and rape, 1.

4 Lynchings In U. S. First Half Of 1937

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 4.—(AP)—The department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during first six months of both 1935 and 1936, the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the South. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

Four Lynched In Half Year

Mississippi Kills Two, Alabama and Georgia, One

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE. — Four lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1937, according to records compiled in the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute.

This is the same number for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

Mississippi leads the lynch toll, with two persons lynched since January. Alabama and Georgia had one each.

The charges against three of the lynch victims were murder. The charge against the fourth was attack. All were Negroes.

Asheboro, N. C Tribune
July 8, 1937

Four Negroes Lynched

Tuskegee Institute reports there were four lynchings in the United States the first half of 1937, exactly the same number as for the corresponding period last year. All were negroes. Three of the mob victims were charged with murder and one with rape. States in which the lynchings occurred were: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 2.

Henderson, N. C. Dispatch
July 5, 1937

FOUR LYNCHINGS FIRST HALF 1937

Three Were for Murder and One for Rape, All Negroes, and in Three States

There were four lynchings in the United States during the first half of 1937, according to records compiled by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and announced in a circular that has been received here. For many years this internationally famous Negro institution has been compiling records on mob violence and making announcement of the statistics each January 1 and July 1.

The four lynchings the past six months were the same in number as for the first half of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the six in the like period in 1934.

All of those lynched were Negroes three of them charged with murder and one with rape. Two of the lynchings occurred in Mississippi and one each in Alabama and Georgia.

Greensboro, N. C., News
July 6, 1937

4 LYNCHED IN 6 MONTHS

Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi Are Guilty States.

Three states were guilty of four lynchings during the first six months of the year according to records kept at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and announced in a letter to the Daily News by F. D. Patterson, president of the institute.

This number is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, the records show, and two less than for the same period in 1934, when there were six lynchings.

All the persons lynched during the past six months were negroes, three of the victims being charged with murder and one with criminal assault. Alabama and Georgia provided one lynching each and Mississippi two.

DECATUR ALA. DAILY
JULY 5. 1937

FOUR NEGROES ARE LYNCHED IN U. S.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5—(AP)—Four negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee institute, negro college.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the institute reported. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
July 13, 1937

LYNCHINGS IN 1937

From the Cochran Journal:

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number for 1934.

All of the persons lynched in 1937 were Negroes, and the offenses were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

MONTGOMERY, ALA. ADVERT'S'R
JULY 5, 1937

4 Lynchings In U. S. First Half Of 1937

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 4.—(AP)—The department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during first six months of both 1935 and 1936, the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the South. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

DEL RIO TEX. NEWS
JULY 5, 1937

Four Lynchings Reported During First Half of 1937

During the first six months of this year, four lynchings occurred in the United States, a report from the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama reveals.

All the persons lynched were Negroes and the offenses charged were murder, in three cases, and rape in one.

The states in which the lynchings took place were Alabama, 1, Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 2.

This is the same number for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934, the report shows.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 13, 1937

The Lynching Record.

We prefer to believe that the South, in one particular, has become definitely more responsive to the influences of civilization. We prefer to believe that public opinion is so crystallizing against mob murders that such opinion is having its influence upon those elements which generally provide the constituents of mobs, as well as upon the agents of governments charged with enforcement of the primary laws of "constituted government." We would rather so believe than to think that the menace of a federal anti-lynching law has acted in restraint of mob activities.

Whatever the reason, the restraint of the lynching element continues to be marked. A report of the lynching record of the whole country for the first six months of this year, as compiled by the department of records and research at the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, shows that there were four lynchings in the country, up to July 1. This is the same number as for the first half of each of the two preceding years, and two less than the first six months of 1934.

All the lynchings were in the South; Georgia and Alabama contributing one each and Mississippi two. Negroes were the victims. The crimes alleged were: Murder 3; rape 1.

Lincolnton, N. C. Times
July 5, 1937

4 Lynchings During First Six Months of 1937 in U. S. Filed

There were four lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research. All the persons lynched were negroes and the offenses charged were, murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which the lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

EVERGREEN ALA. COURANT
JULY 8, 1937

FOUR LYNCHINGS RECORDED FIRST HALF OF 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Russellville, Ala., Times
July 8, 1937

Lynching Record Last Six Months

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON
President.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
July 5, 1937

FOUR NEGRO LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4 (AP)—The Department of Research and Records of Tuskegee institute, Negro college, today reported there were four Negro lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937. The same number were lynched during the first six months of both 1935 and 1936, the college said.

Ellberton, Ga., Star
July 6, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST MONTHS 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937, there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6, for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Commerce, Ga., News
July 8, 1937

Lynching Record For The First Six Months 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Cherryville, N. C., Eagle
July 8, 1937

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of thepersons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were murder, 3: rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1: Mississippi, 2.

Salisbury, N. C. Post

Four Lynchings in Six Months

Three states were guilty of four lynchings during the first six months of the year according to records kept at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and announced to a letter to The Salisbury Post by F. D. Patterson, president of the institute.

This number is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, the records show, and two less than for the same period in 1934, when there were six lynchings.

All the persons lynched during the past six months were negroes, three of the victims being charged with murder and one with criminal assault. Alabama and Georgia provided one lynching each and Mississippi two.

Savannah, Ga., Press
July 5, 1937

FOUR ARE LYNCHED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS

All Victims Were Negroes; One Was Killed in Georgia.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—Figures compiled as Tuskegee Institute by the department of research show that during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the same period in 1935 and 1936 and two less than in 1935.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; attack, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1 and Mississippi, 2.

Williston, S. C. Way
July 9, 1937

Four Lynchings In U. S. This Year

In the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings in the United States. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1: Mississippi, 2.

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
July 7, 1937

Four Lynchings In U. S. This Year

In the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings in the United States. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1: Mississippi, 2.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 5, 1937

TUSKEGEE REPORTS 4 LYNCHINGS IN '37

(By The Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., July 4.—The department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during the first six months of both 1935 and 1936, the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the South. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

murder 3; rape 1.
The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1, Georgia 1, Mississippi 2.

Greensboro N. C. Patriot
July 12. 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR

FIRST SIX MONTHS IS 4

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were:

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. — June

5805

LYNCHINGS IN 1937

From the Cochran Journal:

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute by the Department of Records and Research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number for 1934.

All of the persons lynched in 1937 were Negroes, and the offenses were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Concord, N. C. Tribune
July 9, 1937

WE STAND STILL

The Charlotte News.

Four people were lynched in the United States during the first half of 1937, according to the report of Tuskegee Institute. All of them were lynched in the South, and all of them were black men. Mississippi, as usual, topped the list, with a count of two, one each going to the other most usual participants in such honors, Georgia and Alabama.

According to that, the campaign to eliminate this thing from Southern life has got nowhere in the last two years, since exactly the same number was lynched in the first half of 1936, and the first half of 1935. We have come, indeed, a tremendous long way since the great year of 1893, when more than 200 blacks were hanged, shot, or fried by Southern mobs. But let us not be too complacent about that, for those were greatly troubled days, the days of the battle to bring the Negro under control, and no one can be sure that, given less calm times than these, the thing might not repeat itself all over again.

And let us understand this also; we must not stop with things as they are. This infernal practice is going to be put down. We have our choice: we can wipe it out for ourselves within the frame of the states' rights we defend so warmly, or it will be wiped out for us by the power of the Federal government.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 8, 1937

But What Of 1938?

FOUR negroes were lynched in the United States during the first half of 1937, Tuskegee Institute informs us. Compared with several gory years of the past, the 1937 record is excellent, and we pray that the last half will bring even fewer of these atrocities.

Now before Congress, however, is a federal anti-lynching bill and if this measure becomes a law—as many observers are free to predict that it will—we may look for trouble and, we fear, a series of mob outrages the like of which we have not seen in 20 years.

In the first place, the South knows that the anti-lynching bill is sectional, pure and simple, and that it is a rank invasion of states' rights—and the South resents it. The record for 1937 shows how lynchings have waned, but the bitterness born of a federal anti-lynching bill will stir mob violence and racial hatred to a new pitch.

Federal fines assessed against counties in which lynchings occur form the basis of the proposed law, and we wonder how the authors of the bill expect a mob—distinguished by the fact that it holds no respect for constituted authority—to bother about taking a few hundred dollars from the public treasury. As pointed out many times in the past, the people who make up mobs as a rule are not heavy taxpayers, and they have little to lose.

It also goes without saying that there are hundreds of law officers in the South, fearful of the legislation which will punish them by fines and imprisonment if a mob snatches a rapist or murderer from them, who will not be so diligent in their duty as they might be. It would be nothing more than human nature for a sheriff, for instance, not to arrest a criminal if he knew that a mob would, in all probability, snatch the criminal from his hands within a few moments and leave him in the embarrassing predicament of facing a federal jury and a federal prison.

It will be a sad day for the South when and if the Eastern politicians succeed in passing the anti-lynching bill, and we are free to predict that, if the bill does pass this year, the Tuskegee report for the first half of 1938 will be the gloomiest to be issued in many a moon.

4 Lynchings In 6 Mos. Says Prexy Of Tuskegee Inst.

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—According to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, the institution's Department of Records and Research revealed that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings.

This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, which is two less than the number for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were murder, 3; rape, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Cordele, Ga. Dispatch
July 18, 1937

Whatever the reason, the restraint of the lynching element continues to be marked. A report of the lynching record of the whole country for the first six months of this year, as compiled by the department of records and research at the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, shows that there were four lynchings in the country, up to July 1. This is the same number as for the first half of each of the two preceding years, and two less than the first six months of 1934—The Columbia Record.

DENVER COLO. RECORD-STOCKMAN
JULY 6, 1937 J16

FOUR LYNCHED IN 1937

Four lynchings were recorded in this country during the first six months of 1937, according to figures announced Monday by the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. Mississippi led with two, while Alabama and Georgia each recorded one. All four victims were Negroes.

Duluth, Minn., Herald
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1937

The Lynching Record

President F. T. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, has issued the institute's report on lynchings for the first half of this year. There were four of these mob murders, the same number as in the first six months of 1936 and of 1935. In the first half of 1934 there were six lynchings. All of the victims were Negroes. One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi.

Apparently all the discussion brough forth by the various lynching bills debated in congress since January has neither increased nor decreased the number of lynchings. As long as the lynchings continue, so will the agitation for an anti-lynching law with teeth in it.

MANHATTAN, KAS., CHRONICLE
JULY 8, 1937 J17

The Lynching Record.

There was no improvement in the country's lynching record for the first half of the present year, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. Four victims met death at the hands of mobs in the last six months. This is the same as the number for the first half of last year and for the first half of 1935. It is two under the record for the first half of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. Three were accused of murder and one of rape. Mississippi led with two of the lynchings and Alabama and Georgia had one each.

There is little to justify encouragement in the record. There has been no improvement, as the figures show. The only ray of sunshine in the gloomy lynching situation is that, with the turmoil that has been in evidence over the country, there was no greater tendency toward the formation of mobs. Decency and the law just held their own.—Pittsburg Sun.

KANSAS CITY
SAN ANTONIO TEX. NEWS
JULY 6, 1937 J15

Four Lynchings Record For Six Months of 1937

According to the records kept by the Tuskegee Institute, negro university of Alabama, there were four lynchings in the United States the first six months of 1937, exactly the same number as was recorded last year. This was two less than the same period in 1934.

All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

QUINCY ILL. Record (whly)
THURS JULY 8 1937 WEEKLY

ager of the local branch of th Chicago Motor club, and Ray Va Wyk, formerly of Quincy and no of Mt. Sterling.

Mrs. Johannah Recksieck, wh had lived her ll her life and ha been in ill h th for three years died Tuesday morning, July 6, h her home, 715 South Seventeent street. She was born in Quincy h 1859 and was married to Henr Recksieck in 1880. They cele brated their golden wedding an niversary in 1930. Surviving ar the husband, three sons, a daugh ter, seven grandchildren, on great-grandchild and severa nephews and nieces.

William Hokamp, Sr., who fo a number of years was a trun maker, employed by the old Gen City Trunk company, died in th home of his niece, Miss Fred Stoermer, 432 North Twelfth street Sunday afternoon July

SAN ANGELO, TEX., STANDARD
JULY 6, 1937 J16

LYNCHING RECORD

There were four lynchings for the first six months of this year, according to the records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934. All lynched were negroes, and the offenses charged were murder one, rape three.

Alabama rated one, Georgia one and Mississippi two.

Jess Sweetwater, Athens, Texas, sheriff, took off his gun and told a mob that he would get rough if need be to protect a negro suspect in a revolting crime. The mob muttered and dispersed. The lynching record might be considerably less if there were more officials who were as devoted to upholding the honor of the law and who had the backbone that this Texan seems to have.

PITTSBURG, KAS., SUN
JULY 6, 1937 J15

The Lynching Record

There was no improvement in the country's lynching record for the first half of the present year, according to the records compiled by Tuskegee Institute. Four victims met death at the hands of mobs in the last six months. This is the same as the number for the first half of last year and for the first half of 1935. It is two under the record for the first half of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. Three were accused of murder and one of rape. Mississippi led with two of the lynchings and Alabama and Georgia had one each.

There is little to justify encouragement in the record. There has been no improvement, as the figures show. The only ray of sunshine in the gloomy lynching situation is that, with the turmoil that has been in evidence over the country, there was no greater tendency toward the formation of mobs. Decency and the law just held their own.

[redacted]
JUL 3 1937

Letters

LYNCHINGS IN 1937

To the Editor of The Times-Star:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number, six, for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder three, rape one. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama one, Georgia one, Mississippi two.

F. D. PATTERSON, President.
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June.

5806

RUSSELLVILLE (ARK) COURIER-DEM
JULY 8, 1937 J13

MUCH-ADO ABOUT LYNCHING.

Recently we commented upon the Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill, which has passed the House and been favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary committee, and compared the so-called lynching crime in the South to the labor rioting crime in the North.

Since our previous editorial, lynching statistics for the first half of 1937 have been released by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute. The actual figures prove that all the furore and agitation and the pending anti-lynching bill are "much-ado about nothing" as compared to many other evils that might demand the attention of agitators and reformers and the national congress. Four Negroes were lynched during the first six months of 1937, according to the Tuskegee Institute report. Three of these were charged with murder, and one with rape. The same number were lynched in the first half of 1936, and six in the first half of 1935.

We do not attempt to justify or condone lynching, but we do contend that the crime of lynching in the South does not justify the extreme penalties prescribed in the Wagner-Van Nuys bill, which would make peace officers in a county in which a lynching might occur guilty of a felony, and the county itself liable for civil damages.

The Tuskegee Institute report shows that fourteen Negroes have been lynched in the first six months of the years 1935, 1936, and 1937—a total of 18 months. All the Negroes had committed heinous crimes against white persons—either rape or murder. No doubt all of them would have been sentenced to death or life imprisonment if they had been given legal trials.

Contrast this with the twelve persons killed in the North in less than two weeks in unlawful labor rioting—just as unlawful as a race riot or "lynching bee." And the labor rioting victims had committed no crime. They were guilty only of insisting upon their lawful right to work and earn a living for themselves and their families.

Sectional prejudices should not enter into law enforcement nor national legislation. But the Senators and Congressmen who see a great evil in an occasional lynching of a Negro who had committed a heinous crime should consider seriously whether the lynching crime or the labor-rioting crime is the greater evil.

Many peace officers would be wearing prison stripes and county governments would be bankrupted if the penalties prescribed in the anti-lynching bill were applied to labor riots or even to race riots that occur north of the Mason and Dixon Line.

LYNCHING RECORD !

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, Pres.

MONROE LA. WORLD
JULY 6, 1937

4 NEGROES LYNCHED WITHIN 6 MONTHS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—(AP)—Four negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee institute, negro college.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the institute reported. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

ALEXANDRIA VA. TOWN TALK
JULY 10, 1937 J14

4 Negroes Lynched in Past 6 Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—(By A. P.)—Four negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

BRIDGEPORT, ALA., NEWS
JULY 8, 1937 J14

Lynching Figures For Half-Year Released

Tuskegee, Ala. July 5, 1937—F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, has just released figures concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were four Lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number, six for the first half of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3 rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1 Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

ALEXANDER CITY, ALA., OUTLOOK
JULY 8, 1937 J13

Lynching Record For First Six Months 1937

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, President

CENTREVILLE, ALA., ADVERTISER
JULY 7, 1937 J13

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST HALF OF 1937

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number (6) for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

CYNTHIANA, KY., DEMOCRAT
JULY 8, 1937 J14

LYNCHING RECORD FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

JUL 10 1937

FOUR LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

(Bristol Herald-Courier)

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute show that in the first six months of this year there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched during the last six months were Negroes. Three of the victims of mob lawlessness were charged with murder and one with rape. One of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi.

Tuskegee Institute does not report the number of attempted lynchings that have been thwarted thus far this year, as it usually does. We recall one such instance when a Texas Sheriff told a mob which invaded his jail that it could not have his prisoner, and that he didn't mean maybe.

Probably that happened too late to be included in the Institute's report, and perhaps there have been no other attempted lynchings for the period the report covers. If not, the record of the number of lynchings and attempted lynchings for the last six months is unusually good.

As the record stands, there have been only four lynchings and only one attempted lynching. But that is four lynchings and one attempted lynching too many. And while it is heartening to know that only five lynchings mobs have been formed in six months, there is no assurance that the record for the next six months will be equally good.

The number of lynchings varies from year to year. It may be fewer this year than last, and larger next year than this. One has been encouraged at times to believe the mob spirit was dying out, only to see it flare up again. But there is every reason to believe that, with an anti-lynching law on the Federal statues to reinforce the efforts of those who have been combatting the lynching evil for many years, there seldom would be a mob murder to disgrace the South or a Southern State.

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., NEWS
JULY 8, 1937 J13

But What Of 1938?

FOUR negroes were lynched in the United States during the first half of 1937, Tuskegee Institute informs us. Compared with several gory years of the past, the 1937 record is excellent, and we pray that the last half will bring even fewer of these atrocities.

Now before Congress, however, is a federal anti-lynching bill and if this measure becomes a law—as many observers are free to predict that it will—we may look for trouble and, we fear, a series of mob outrages the like of which we have not seen in 20 years.

In the first place, the South knows that the anti-lynching bill is sectional, pure and simple, and that it is a rank invasion of states' rights—and the South resents it. The record for 1937 shows how lynchings have waned, but the bitterness born of a federal anti-lynching bill will stir mob violence and racial hatred to a new pitch.

Federal fines assessed against counties in which lynchings occur form the basis of the proposed law, and we wonder how the authors of the bill expect a mob—distinguished by the fact that it holds no respect for constituted authority—to bother about taking a few hundred dollars from the public treasury. As pointed out many times in the past, the people who make up mobs as a rule are not heavy taxpayers, and they have little to lose.

It also goes without saying that there are hundreds of law officers in the South, fearful of the legislation which will punish them by fines and imprisonment if a mob snatches a rapist or murderer from them, who will not be so diligent in their duty as they might be. It would be nothing more than human nature for a sheriff, for instance, not to arrest a criminal if he knew that a mob would, in all probability, snatch the criminal from his hands within a few moments and leave him in the embarrassing predicament of facing a federal jury and a federal prison.

It will be a sad day for the South when and if the Eastern politicians succeed in passing the anti-lynching bill, and we are free to predict that, if the bill does pass this year, the Tuskegee report for the first half of 1938 will be the gloomiest to be issued in many a moon.

TALLADEGA, ALA., HOME
JULY 8, 1937 J13

MOBS—NORTH, SOUTH

The Tuskegee institute issues a report upon lynchings during the past six months, showing that there were only four during the half-year, one each in Georgia and Alabama and two in Mississippi. This is two less than for the previous six months, says the Rome, Ga., News-Tribune, and continues:

The decrease is most gratifying and it is unfortunate that a similar decrease in lynching in portions of the country outside of the South, is not revealed. Instead of lynch law decreasing elsewhere, however, it has increased at an almost unprecedented rate, especially in the industrial regions of the North and Central West.

It may clarify understanding upon this subject to give the official definition of "lynch," this definition being "to inflict punishment upon or kill without the forms of law, as by mob or any unauthorized persons."

Thus while there have been but four lynchings recorded in the South during the past six months there have been literally hundreds in such places as Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Johnstown, Warren and other industrial centers. Yet in the face of this transparent fact, the pending anti-lynch bill in congress specifically exempts the lynchers of the North from its provisions and includes only those of the South.

Mob law is deplorable regardless of where it breaks out but it is even more deplorable when one form of mob law is condoned or regarded lightly while another form is dealt with in vigorous and proper manner. The South is alert to the perils of mob violence and it is high time that the North became equally alert, for mob violence in that quarter is even worse than in the South because it constitutes a sinster attack upon government itself.

Gadsden KANSAS
[redacted], ALA., RECORD
JULY 8, 1937 J13

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

In the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson,
Pres. Tuskegee Inst.

LOUISVILLE, KY., COURIER-JR.
JULY 6, 1937 J13

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1937.

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find, according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder, three; rape, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two.

F. D. Patterson
President, Tuskegee Institute.

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.—June

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Cullman, Ala., Democrat
July 8, 1937

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1937

The following information concerning lynching for the first six months of this year is sent you. According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six monthes of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number of each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi,2.

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1937

1937 Lynchings

To the Editor of The Journal:

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than for the first six months of 1934.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two. —F. O. Patterson,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
July 8, 1937

4 Lynchings During 1936 Report Shows

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
July 5, 1937

SIX LYNCHINGS FOR YEAR TO DATE ARE ALL IN DEEP SOUTH

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute today announced that according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, there are four lynchings in the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; George 1; Mississippi, 2.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
July 5, 1937

Lynchings Show A Decline Now

According to figures released by Tuskegee Institute, negro college, there were four lynchings in the United States during the first six months of this year. This compares with six for a similar period in 1934. There were four in the first six months of 1936 and 1935.

Mississippi had two lynchings and Georgia and Alabama one each.

Offenses charged were: murder 3 and rape, 1.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. POST
JULY 5, 1937

FOUR ARE LYNCHED IN FIRST SIX MONTHS

TUSKEGEE, July 5.—(Special.)—Four persons were lynched in the United States in the first six months of 1937, according to a report released by the Department of Research and Records of Tuskegee Institute.

The report stated all the victims were Negroes. Of the number, three were charged with murder and one with rape, the report said. All the lynchings occurred in the South Alabama and Georgia reporting one victim and Mississippi two, according to the report.

Macon, Ga., News
July 5, 1937

Four Lynchings In Six Months

Deaths Are in Three Southern States, Report Shows

Four lynchings took place during the first six months of this year, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, F. D. Patterson, president, informed The Evening News today.

These lynchings were in three southern states, two being in Mississippi, one in Georgia and one in Alabama.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes, the report shows .Three of the alleged crimes were murder and one for criminal assault .

This equaled the record for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number for 1934.

MEMPHIS, TENN., COM'L-APPEAL
JULY 5, 1937

LYNCHING REPORT ISSUED

Tuskegee Department Lists Four Victims During 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4.—(AP)—The department of research and records of Tuskeegee Institute, negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during the first six months of both 1935 and 1936 the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the south. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
July 7, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research, in the first six months of

1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Fairhope, Ala., Courier
July 8, 1937

Lynching Record for First 6 Months in 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of Record and Research there were 4 lynchings for the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1936 and 1935, and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder, 3; Rape, 1.

The State in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Winterhaven, Fla., Chief
July 7, 1937

States Furnished 4 Lynchings First Half of Year, Report Shows

Three states of the South were the scene of four lynchings during the first six months of 1937, according to the announcement sent the Daily Chief today by Dr. F. D Patterson, president of the Tuskegee, Ala., Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington in 1881. Dr Patterson's report follows the long line of those sent out annually by Washington and later by Major Richard Moton, Patterson's predecessor in the presidential chair.

Alabama and Georgia furnished one lynching each and Mississippi two during the first half of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934. All the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

Reidsville, N. C. Review
July 5, 1937

Lynching Record For First Six Months

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder 3, rape 1.

The states in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1, Georgia 1, Mississippi 2.

Reidsville Review
JUL 7 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee institute in the department of records and research, in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Americus, Ga., Recorder
July 6, 1937

LYNCHINGS IN 6 MONTHS

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., July 6.—he number of lynchings for the rst six months of 1937 was the ame as for the similar periods n 1936 and 1935.

There were four lynchings, according to records compiled at uskegee Institute. All the persons lynched were negroes. The ffenses were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
July 9, 1937

Lynching Figures

Statistics are not at hand but every newspaper reader knows that gangster murders and labor racketeer slayings are very common occurrences in all of the thickly-populated eastern industrial areas.

In the South during the past six months there were only four lynchings and yet, the United States senate soon is going to make a very serious effort to pass a bill which would impose heavy penalties upon innocent people of counties in which lynchings occur in the South and at the same time exempt from the penalties the residents of those areas in which gang slayings and labor racketeer murders are frequent.

The whole set-up is so obviously unjust that it leads to the suspicion that backers of the federal anti-lynching bill have in mind, once that bill is adopted, making a drive for federal legislation calculated to set aside many of the wise statutes which promote amity among the races in the South.

In view of the evidence, certainly no one can successfully contend that the anti-lynching bill is not an effort to impose a humiliating and dangerous piece of legislation upon the South—and the South alone!

Should its advocates be successful, do you think for a minute they will be satisfied with that success? Frankly we do not. The same gang of vote-greedy politicians and half-baked Southern "liberals," who would risk anything but their hide for the adulation of eastern and northern radicals, will be busy with new schemes to endanger the peaceful relationship of the races in Dixie.

Southerners wake up before it is too late!

Commenting on the anti-lynching bill the Gadsden Times says:

"The Tuskegee Institute issues a report upon lynchings during the past six months, showing that there were only four during the half-year, one each in Georgia and Alabama and two in Mississippi. This is two less than for the previous six months.

"This decrease is most gratifying and it is unfortunate that a similar decrease in lynching in portions of the country outside of the South is not revealed. Instead of lynch law decreasing elsewhere, however, it has increased at an almost unprecedented rate, especially in the industrial regions of the north and central west.

It may clarify understanding upon this subject to give the official definition of "lynch," this definition being "to inflict punishment upon or kill without the forms of law, as by mob or any unauthorized persons."

"Thus while there have been but four lynchings recorded in the South during the past six months there have been literally hundreds in such places as Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Johnstown, Warren and other industrial centers. Yet in the face of this transparent fact, the pending anti-lynch bill in Congress specifically exempts the lynchers of the north from its provisions and includes only those of the South.

"Mob law is deplorable regardless of where it breaks out but it is even more deplorable when one form of mob law is condoned or regarded lightly while another form is dealt with in vigorous and proper manner. The South is alert to the peril of mob violence and it is high time that the North became equally alert for mob violence in that quarter is even worse than in the South because it constitutes a sinister attack upon the government itself."

Ayden, N. C., Dispatch
July 8, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1937

According to the records completed at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 6, 1937

Lynchings

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE records show a total of four lynchings in the country in the first six months of this year, all in the South but none in South Carolina, which is the same number as for the first six months of 1936 and 1935 and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934.

With occasional exceptions progress is being made steadily in the war upon lynching, which is as it should be.

Law enforcement officers and courts are here to see that justice is done and it is pretty safe to bet that it will be done whenever any considerable number of good citizens do their own share in cooperating.

Oneida, Tenn. News
July 9, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD IN FIRST HALF OF YEAR

Tuskegee Reports Four Lynchings During Past 6 Months

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months in 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, three; rape, one.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Georgia one; Mississippi, 2.

Tuskegee, Ala., News
July 8, 1937

Lynching Record For The First Six Months Of 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

F. D. PATTERSON.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
July 5, 1937

Four Lynchings Since January

To the Index-Journal

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find acording to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississipi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Marks, Miss. Democrat
July 8, 1937

LYNCHING RECORD

According to the lynching record for the first six months of 1937, released this week by the Tuskegee Institute, there were four lynchings, all the victims being colored. This was the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and was two less than the number 6 for 1934.

The offenses charged were murder, 3; rape 1.

The record for states is Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississinni 2.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
July 9, 1937

The 1937 Lynching Record

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I send you the following concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year: I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, in the department of records and research that in the first six months of 1937, there were four lynchings This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; George, 1; Mississippi, 2.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Cochran, Ga., Journal
July 8, 1937

LYNCHINGS IN 1937

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number for 1934.

All of the persons lynched in 1937 were Negroes, and the offenses were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Marianna, Fla., Times Courier
July 6, 1937

FOUR LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee, Ala., July 5—Four Negros were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and recorders of Tuskegee Institute, Negro college.

One lynching occured in Alabama, one in eorgia and two in Mississippi, the institute reported. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the Negros were charged with murder and one with rape, according to the institute records.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
JULY 5, 1937

Six Negroes Lynched In First Half Of '37

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5—(AP)—Four negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Misaissippi, the institute reported. The same number were victims of

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

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TUSCALOOSA, ALA., NEWS
JULY 5, 1937 J9

FOUR NEGROES LYNCHED

Same As During First Half Of 1935 and 1936

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Four Negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi. The same number were victims of lynchings during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the Negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

Grenada, Miss. Sentinel
July 8, 1937

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape ,1.

The States in which lynching occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

MOBILE ALA. PRESS
JULY 5, 1937

4 Negroes Lynched In Southern States

TUSKEGEE, July 5.—(AP)—Four negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi the institute reported. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

SHEFFIELD, ALA., TRI-CITIES DAILY
JULY 7, 1937 J12

THE LYNCHING RECORD FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS 1937

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, Pres.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
July 5, 1937

4 LYNCHINGS IN 1937, TUSKEGEE BOARD SAYS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4 (AP).—The department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, Negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were Negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during the first six months of both 1935 and 1936, the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the South. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

MOBILE, ALA., REGISTER
JULY 5, 1937 J1

4 Lynchings Reported By Tuskegee Institute

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 4.—(AP) The department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, negro college, today reported there were four lynchings in the United States in the first six months of 1937.

All the lynch victims were negroes, Tuskegee reported. The same number were lynched during the first six months of both 1935 and 1936, the college said.

Three of this year's victims were charged with murder and one with rape. The lynchings occurred in the South. There was one in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the college reported.

DOTHAN, ALA., EAGLE
JULY 5, 1937 J1

FOUR LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) —Four Negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the the department of research and records of Tuskegee Institute, Negro college.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the institute reported. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the Negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

Red Springs, N. C., Citizen-New
July 9, 1937

LYNCHINGS ARE DECREASING

In the first six months of this year, there were only four lynchings in the United States, according to information compiled by Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All the persons lynched were Negroes, three being charged with murder and one with rape. Lynchings by states are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

[redacted]

JUL 6 1937

1937 Lynching Record

Editor of "The Brooklyn Citizen":

Sir—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, three; rape, one.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
July 6, 1937

4 LYNCHINGS IN SIX MONTHS

Tuskegee Institutee, Ala., July 6.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

La Fayette, La., Advertiser
July 5, 1937

Four Lynchings Are Reported During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5 (AP)—Four negroes were lynched in the United States during the first six months of 1937, according to a report of the Department of Research and Records of Tukegee Institute, negro college.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia and two in Mississippi, the institute reported. The same number were victims of lynching parties during the first six months of 1935 and 1936.

Three of the negroes were charged with murder and one with rape, according to institute records.

The Lynching Record For The First Six Months 1937

By F. D. PATTERSON
Pres. Tuskegee Inst.

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Ala. 1; Georgia 1; Mississippi 2.

FOUR LYNCHED FIRST HALF '37

TUSKEGEE REPORTS ON LYNCHING RECORD

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and research there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Colored. The offenses charged were murder, 3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia 1; Mississippi, 2.

Union City, Tenn. Commercial
July 6, 1937

According to information furnished by the Tuskegee Institute, negro school Tuskegee, Ala,. the number of lynchings in the United States for the first six months of this year were four. This is the same number that occured in the same period for 1935 and 1936. Alabama and Georgia each had one lynching and Mississippi had two. All of the persons lynched were negroes and three were charged with murder and one with rape.

According to statistics released Monday there were 213 persons killed in accidents of various natures over the country the past week-end. Eight persons were drowned in the Tri-States and hundreds were injured in automobile accidents. This report does not include Monday which was officially celebrated as the Fourth of July.

Albert Dyer, age 37, WPA street crossing watchman in Inglewood, Calif., has confessed to the murder of three young Inglewood girls June 28th. The three girls, ages 7, 8 and 9, were lured from play in a park and assaulted and then strangled to death.

Lumpkin, Ga., Stewart-Webster Jnl.
July 8, 1937

Four Lynchings In Six Months

TUSKEEGEE RECORDS SHOW GEORGIA HAD ONLY ONE

The lynching record for the first six months of 1937 as compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskeegee Institute in Alabama, shows that there were four people meeting death in this manner from January 1 to June 30.

This number is the same as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

The Institute reports that all the persons lynched were Negroes. The offences charged were: murder, 1; rape, 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi, 2.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
July 8, 1937

MOBS—NORTH, SOUTH

The Tuskegee institute issues a report upon lynching during the past six months showing that there were only four during the half-year, one each in Georgia and Alabama and two in Mississippi. This is two less than for the previous six months, says the Rome, Ga., News-Tribune and continues:

The decrease is most gratifying and it is unfortunate that a smilar decrease in lynching in portions of the country outside of the South, is not revealed. Instead of lynch law decreasing elsewhere, however, it has increased at an almost unprecedented rate, especially in the industrial regions of the North and Central West.

It may clarify understanding upon this subject to give the official definitiion of "lynch," this definition being "to inflict punishment upon or kill without the forms of law, as by mob or any unauthorized persons."

Thus while there have been but four lynchings recorded in the South during the past six months there have been literally hundreds in such places as Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Johnstown, Warren and other industrial centers. Yet in the face of this transparent fact, the pending anti-lynch bill in congress specifically exempts the lynchers of the North from its provisions and includes only those of the South.

Mob law is deplorable regardless of where it breaks out but it is even more deplorable when one form of mob law is condoned or regarded lightly while another form is dealt with in vigorous and proper manner. The South is alert to the perils of mob violence and it is high time that the North became equally alert, for mob violence in that quarter is even worse than in the South because it constitutes a sinster attack upon government itself.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
July 5, 1937

Four Lynchings In Six Months Period

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research for the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings in the United States. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder,3; rape, 1.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Savannah, Ga., Press
July 13, 1937

THE COLUMBIA RECORD, discussing the improvement in the lynching situation throughout the country, says:

Whatever the reason, the restraint of the lynching element continues to be marked. A report of the lynching record of the whole country for the first six months of this year, as compiled by the department of records and research at the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, shows that there were four lynchings in the country, up to July 1. This is the same number as for the first half of each of the two preceding years, and two less than the first six months of 1934.

JACKSON, MISS., NEWS
JULY 6, 1937

Tuskegee Institute report saying [illegible] persons were lynched in the USA during the first six months of this year adds this: "All the victims were negroes. True. But why call them victims? How about the persons they murdered or ravished? They were the real victims. Think a little about that, you softies.

Four Negroes Lynched First Six Months of Year

Statesville, N. C. Daily Times
July 6, 1937

EQUAL TO FIGURES OF '35 AND '36

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2. The release was issued by F. D. Patterson, president.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
July 5, 1937

Lynchings Decrease

It is encouraging to observe the tendency toward mob violence and lynchings is decreasing in the South and that there have been no more than a minimum of such cases during the last two years.

Compilations show there were four lynchings in the South during the first six months of this year, the same as the number recorded for the corresponding period of 1936 and two less than the total of six reported for the first six months of 1934.

Negroes were the victims in all cases, three suspected murderers and one accused criminal attacker being slain at the hands of mobs.

Of the lynchings, one occurred in Georgia, one in Alabama and two in Mississippi. No other states reported such mob actions, and in the states, where they were reported, exhaustive steps were taken to bring the guilty parties to justice.

The south has made rapid strides in its fight to eliminate mob violence and the action is commendable. We will welcome the day, however, when it is no longer practiced and the courts alone are left to handle all cases regardless of the nature of the crime committed.

Justice is served only when the accused is given fair and impartial trial before jury.

[illegible]
July 6, 1937

Lynching Record

ACCORDING to statistics kept at Tuskegee Institute, there were four lynchings the first six months of 1937, the identical number that marred the record for the same period of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number in 1934.

All the victims of mob violence in 1937 were Negroes and all the outbreaks occurred in three Southern states—Alabama and Georgia with one each and Mississippi with two. Three of the Negroes were charged with murder and one with rape.

The lynching record is of course deplorable. In this civilized period there should be no lynchings. Comparatively speaking, however, fine progress has been made, and continued agitation against this, one of the worst forms of outlawry, is destined to eventually eliminate this expression of barbarism.

When punishment of those guilty of offenses against society becomes more certain the incentive for lynchings will decrease.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - June

5809

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
July 7, 1937

AT LEAST THE RECORD IS NO REDDER

A statement released this week by the Tuskegee Normal Institute informs us that during the first half of 1937 there had been four lynchings. During the same period last year the same number of human beings had been launched into eternity by similar methods. In 1934 six men had died at the hands of mobs during the first six months of the year.

Let us note carefully these humiliating facts. Not a single person died at the hands of private avengers north of the Mason-Dixon line or west of the Mississippi. All of the victims were Negroes. Our neighbors to the south have been boasting that in the main mob law was only invoked against black fiends who attacked white women. But only one of the four done to death by the mob this year had been charged with this crime. The other three were suspected—none convicted—of murder.

The darkest spot in the country remains as usual in that block of states where human life is held cheapest—Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Strange to say Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma escaped this stigma a whole six months. This at least is encouraging for it shows that public sentiment is gradually narrowing the scope of the rule of Judge Lynch, leading to the hope that the good people of those erring states, and there are thousands of them, will yet wipe out the stain.

The lynching episode in Mississippi where two black men were brutally tortured before their tormentors mercifully ended their agony, however, still stands unmatched for fiendishness in the annals of mob murders. If the bill now pending in the senate becomes a law, as it is feared it will, the people of the country will have Mississippians to thank for it.

Perhaps those kindly people will rush their victims over into another state, or at least into another county, so they may escape the penalty the proposed law will inflict upon the decent citizenry of Mississippi. Bootlegged lynchings bid fair to become as popular as moonshine liquor once the mad lynchers learn the [illegible]

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 6, 1937

Four Lynchings This Year.

Records compiled at Tuskegee Institute show that in the first six months of this year there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched during the last six months were Negroes. Three of the victims of mob lawlessness were charged with murder and one with rape. One of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia, and two in Mississippi.

Tuskegee Institute does not report the number of attempted lynchings that have been thwarted thus far this year, as it usually does. We recall one such instance when a Texas Sheriff told a mob which invaded his jail that it could not have his prisoner, and that he didn't mean maybe.

Probably that happened too late to be included in the Institute's report, and perhaps there have been no other attempted lynchings for the period the report covers. If not, the record of the number of lynchings and attempted lynchings for the last six months is unusually good.

As the record stands, there have been only four lynchings and only one attempted lynching. But that is four lynchings and one attempted lynching too many. And while it is heartening to know that only five lynching mobs have been formed in six months, there is no assurance that the record for the next six months will be equally good.

The number of lynchings varies from year to year. It may be fewer this year than last, and larger next year than this. One has been encouraged at times to believe the mob spirit was dying out, only to see it flare up again. But there is every reason to believe that, with an anti-lynching law on the Federal statutes to reinforce the efforts of those who have been combatting the lynching evil for many years, there seldom would be a mob murder to disgrace the South or a Southern State. Congress should pass the pending anti-lynching bill.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 7, 1937

An Encouraging Record

North Carolina is again on the honor roll. No lynching occurred in this state during the first six months of 1937. Judge Lynch claimed four victims in the country during the period, but he confined his activities to three states—Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

There were three lynchings in Mississippi, one in Alabama and one in Georgia. All were Negroes. Three of the victims were charged with murder and one with rape.

This is an encouraging record in two respects. It reveals that mob law was not resorted to in 45 states and that the number of lynchings was no greater during the first six months of this year than it was in the first six months of 1935 and 1936, while it was two less than in the first half of 1934.

We are indebted for this authentic information on lynchings to President T. V. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute. He and his predecessors have been keeping the country accurately informed on this subject for a number of years.

Marion, N. C., News
July 8, 1937

From Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute comes the "Lynching Record for the First Six Months of 1937" disclosing four such crimes, all in the south, or the same number as for the first half of 1935 and 1936, but two less than the six reported the first six months of 1934. All of the victims were negroes; three were accused of murder and the fourth of criminal assault. None was reported from North Carolina, two being in Mississippi and one in Alabama and one in Georgia.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 7, 1937

Record for Half a Year

Records disclose that for the first six months of 1937 another infamous record was written in the states—four lynchings occurred—each in the South. Following are the states and the number of lynchings: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2. In each instance the victim was a negro and the offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

There can be no justification in law and order for one lynching. Violence, mob rule and assassination by groups or gangs or clans indict a civilization of a nation or a section. With each recurrance the forces of law and constituted authority suffer outrageous attack that cannot be defended. May the time come when the nation will attain and maintain a clean slate on this score.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
JULY 7, 1937

MOBS IN NORTH AND SOUTH

THE Tuskegee Institute issues a report upon lynchings during the past six months, showing that there were only four during the half-year, one each in Georgia and Alabama and two in Mississippi. This is two less than for the previous six months.

This decrease is most gratifying and it is unfortunate that a similar decrease in lynching in portions of the country outside of the South is not revealed. Instead of lynch law decreasing elsewhere, however, it has increased at an almost unprecedented rate, especially in the industrial regions of the North and central West.

It may clarify understanding upon this subject to give the official definition of "lynch," this definition being "to inflict punishment upon or kill without the forms of law, as by mob or any unauthorized persons."

Thus while there have been but four lynchings recorded in the South during the past six months there have been literally hundreds in such places as Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit, Johnstown, Warren and other industrial centers. Yet in the face of this transparent fact, the pending anti-lynch bill in Congress specifically exempts the lynchers of the North from its provisions and includes only those of the South.

Mob law is deplorable regardless of where it breaks out but it is even more deplorable when one form of mob law is condoned or regarded lightly while another form is dealt with in vigorous and proper manner. The South is alert to the perils of mob violence and it is high time that the North became equally alert, for mob violence in that quarter is even worse than in the South because it constitutes a sinister attack upon the government itself.

[redacted]
JUL 7 1937

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[redacted]
JUL 7 1937

AT LEAST THE RECORD IS NO REDDER

A statement released this week by the Tuskegee Normal Institute informs us that during the first half of 1937 there had been four lynchings. During the same period last year the same number of human beings had been launched into eternity by similar methods. In 1934 six men had died at the hands of mobs during the first six months of the year.

Let us note carefully these humiliating facts. Not a single person died at the hands of private avengers north of the Mason-Dixon line or west of the Mississippi. All of the victims were Negroes. Our neighbors to the south have been boasting that in the main mob law was only invoked against black fiends who attacked white women. But only one of the four done to death by the mob this year had been charged with this crime. The other three were suspected—none convicted—of murder.

The darkest spot in the country remains as usual in that block of states where human life is held cheapest—Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Strange to say Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma escaped this stigma a whole six months. This at least is encouraging for it shows that public sentiment is gradually narrowing the scope of the rule of Judge Lynch, leading to the hope that the good people of those erring states, and there are thousands of them, will yet wipe out the stain.

The lynching episode in Mississippi where two black men were brutally tortured before their tormentors mercifully ended their agony, however, still stands unmatched for fiendishness in the annals of mob murders. If the bill now pending in the senate becomes a law, as it is feared it will, the people of the country will have Mississippians to thank for it.

Perhaps those kindly people will rush their victims over into another state, or at least into another county, so they may escape the penalty the proposed law will inflict upon the decent citizenry of Mississippi. Bootlegged lynchings bid fair to become as popular as moonshne liquor once the mad lynchers learn the ropes.

BLOOMINGTON ILL PANTAGRAPH
WEDNESDAY JULY 7 1937

Lynchings Up to the Average

The Tuskegee Institute, famous institution founded in Alabama by Booker T. Washington, friend of Theodore Roosevelt, makes it a painstaking duty to keep records of lynchings in the United States. The custom was begun in the days when lynching of Negroes was so common as to be revolting to the sense of American "civilization."

The report just issued by the Institute for the lynchings in the first half of the current year indicates that four such occurrences were put on record. This is a much smaller number than occurred 15 and 20 years ago, but the same number as for the first six months of the years 1935 and 1936. They were two less than the total of six in the first half of the year 1934.

All victims of the recorded lynchings this year were Negroes. Three were charged with murder and one with rape.

Mississippi had the "honor" of having two of the lynchings, Georgia and Alabama one each.

The lynching record is of double concern in view of the defeat of the Gavagan bill in congress, which was meant to prevent lynchings. It was introduced by a Negro member of congress from New York, and would have county officers responsible for any case in which a mob obtained possession of an accused person and caused a lynching after the accused was once in custody of law officers. Southern members of congress were stoutly opposed to the bill, and it was charged that it was a sop thrown to northern Negroes by the Democratic majority in congress.

Jackson, Miss., News
July 5, 1937

THE LYNCHING RECORD

Tuskegee Institute, which keeps a record of lynchings, reports that during the first six months of the current year four lynchings occurred.

This is the same number as for the first six months of 1936 and also for the first six months of 1935—conclusive proof that lynching is not on the increase.

All of the persons lynched were negroes, three charged with murder and one charged with rape.

Mississippi had two lynchings—that affair near Duck Hill. Georgia and Alabama had one each.

Tell that to members of Congress who are so loudly braying for enactment of a Federal anti-lynching law—a law that would cause an increase instead of a decrease of lynchings.

Also put a sentence in your nightly prayers asking God to give some wisdom to members of Congress who are advocating the passage of that vicious measure.

Lynchings-1937
& Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.- June

5810

ADA, OKLA., NEWS
JULY 8, 1937 J14

According to the record kept by Tuskogee Institute, there were four lynchings during the first half of the year. The same number occurred during the corresponding period of 1936 and also 1935. This is a much better showing than in previous years, indicating that the public is more inclined than formerly to let the law take its course.

LOUISVILLE, KY., TIMES
JULY 8, 1937 J14

Rape Minor Lynching Cause

Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute performs valuable public service by publishing lynching statistics. Seventy-five per cent of mob murders for the first six months in the year 1937, Tuskegee finds, were cases in which rape was not alleged; cases in which no sex offense was alleged.

All victims this year, thus far, have been Negroes.

All lynchings occurred in Gulf States. There were three for alleged murder, one for alleged rape.

Lynching is often a rural frolic or emotional spree rather than anything else.

SOUTHWEST DIVISION
KANSAS CITY
Clayton

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., RECORD
JULY 8, 1937 J14

Four Lynchings In 6 Months, Report

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The records which are compiled at Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., in the Department of Records and Research show that there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number six for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

ROANOKE, ALA., LEADER
JULY 7, 1937 J13

LYNCHING RECORD IS GIVEN FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1937

Tuskegee Institute, July 5.—According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research, there were four lynchings in the first six months of 1937. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than for the same in 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes, and the offences charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

One lynching occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia, and two in Mississippi.

KANSAS CITY Tribune
CULLMAN, ALA., [illegible]
JULY 8, 1937 J13

LYNCHING RECORD FOR FIRST SIX MONTH OF 1937

During the first six months of 1937 there were 4 lynchings. This is the same number as in thefirst six months of 1935 when 6 persons were lynched during the first six months of that year, reports the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute.

All persons lynced were negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder, 3; rape 1.

The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number were: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

ST.LOUIS, MO. POST-DISPATCH
JULY 9, 1837 J12

4 LYNCHINGS TO DATE IN 1937

Corresponding Periods in 1935 and 1936 Tied, Tuskegee Institute Says.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 9.—There were four lynchings in the first six months of 1937, according to the records of the Tuskegee Institute. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder, 3; criminal assault, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

HARTFORD, CONN. [illegible]
JUL 6 [illegible]

FOUR LYNCHINGS RECORD FOR YEAR

Four persons, all Negroes, were lynched during the first six months of this year, according to the Department of Records and Research at Tuckegee Institute in Alabama.

This number is the same as for the corresponding periods in 1935 and 1936, but is two less than the number six during the first half of 1934.

The lynchings occurred in three southern states; Two in Mississippi, one each in Alabama and Georgia.

Three of the persons lynched were charged with murder and one with rape.

ADA, OKLA., NEWS
JULY 5, 1937 J13

According to the record kept by Tuskegee Institute there were four lynchings during the first half of the year. The same number occurred during the corresponding period of 1936 and also 1935. This is a much better showing than in previous years, indicating that the public is more inclined than formerly to let the law take its course.

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This year is half gone and before much longer we shall be looking forward to and speculating on what 1938 may have in store for the world. The past six months have been busy and exciting ones but the public hopes things will settle down before the end of the year. A period of relaxation and prosperity is the country's greatest need just now.

Bowdon, Ga., Bulletin
July 15, 1937

Lynching Record First Six Months Totals Six Cases

Number Lynchings First Half This Year Same As For Corresponding Periods In 1936, 1935

In the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings in the United States, according to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of Records and Research.

This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934. All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1. The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Leland, Miss. Enterprise
July 16, 1937

Statistics Show Four Lynchings in U. S. During Past Year

During the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings in the United States, according to information given out from Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research. This is the same number as for the first six months of last year, the report shows, and two less than the number for the same period in 1934.

The reports continue:

"All persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were murder, 3; rape, 1. The states in which the lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1; Georgia 1; Mississippi 2."

Madison, Ga., Madisonian
July 16, 1937

Lynchings This Year Same As In 1935-36

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: Murder 3; rape, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Newberry, S. C. Observer
July 9, 1937

HOLDING OUR OWN.

The South is holding her own in the matter of lynchings with the records showing that there were four lynchings during the first six months of 1937 as compared with the same number in 1936 and 1935. In 1934 there were six lynchings for the same period of time. Those states in which lynchings occurred were Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1, and Mississippi, 2.

The South has learned that the proper place for justice to be meted out is in the courts. The time should come when there should be no lynchings. As the figures show, we are on our way.

La Follette, Tenn., Press
July 20, 1937

LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the first six months of this year. I find according to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research that in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Very truly yours,
T. D. Patterson, President
Tuskegee N. & I. Institute,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Jan. — June.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

5811

Americus, Ga., Tri-County News
July 22, 1937

LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR SAME AS PAST 2 YEARS

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the department of records and research, during the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months of 1934.

All of the persons lynched were negroes: The offenses charged were: murder, 3; rape, 1. The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

GREENVILLE TEX. BANNER
JULY 21, 1937 A2

About the Constitution

According to the latest report of the Tuskegee Institute, Texas has thus far this year been free from mob violence as it takes the form of lynchings. There have been few in the first half of the year and they have been in other states.

Now two more must be added to the list of anarchisms, since Florida has seen fit to contribute that many negro deaths without benefit to their Constitutional right of a jury trial.

Right now a lot of us are mouthing a lot of words about the sanctity of the Constitution, holding up our hands in holy horror that one line be altered for the intent of serving more people fairly. Many of the same group will read of the direct abrogation of the Constitution in this case, those which have passed and those will come, yawn and think, "Oh, well, they were probably guilty, anyway."

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
July 22, 1937

Lynching Record First Six Months 1937

According to the records compiled at Tuskegee Institute in the Department of Records and Research in the first six months of 1937 there were four lynchings. This is the same number as for the first six month of 1935 and 1936, and 2 less than the number 6 for the first six months in 1934. All of the persons lynched were negroes. The offenses charged were: murder, 2; rape 1. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

Eatonton, Ga., Messenger
July 29, 1937

Statistics Show Lynchings Same As Last Year

Accordingg to statistic gathered by the Tuskeegee Institue, four people were lynched in the country during the first six months of 1936 and 1935, but two less than 1934.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes. The offenses charged were murder, 3; rape 1. The states in which the lynchings occurred were Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; and Mississippi 2.

Blountstown, Fla., Record
July 23, 1937

Lynching Record For First Six Months Of 1937 Same As 1935-36

According to records compiled at Tuskegee Institute, in the first six months of 1937 here were four lynchings in the United States. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936, and two less than the number for the same period of 1934.

All persons lynched were negroes, the offenses charged being murder three and rape one.

States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each state were Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2.

DEL RIO, TEX. HERALD
JULY 19, 1937 J30

LYNCHING RECORD

There were four lynchings for the first six months of this year, according to the records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute. This is the same number as for the first six months of 1935 and 1936 and two less than the number for the first six months of 1934. All lynched were Negroes, and the offenses charged were murder one, rape three.

Alabama rated one, Georgia one and Mississippi two.

Jess Sweetwater, Athens, Texas, sheriff, took off his gun and told a mob that he would get rough if need be to protect a Negro suspect in a revolting crime. The mob muttered and dispersed. The lynching record might be considerably less if there were more officials who were as devoted to upholding the honor of the law and who had the backbone that this Texan seems to have.—San Angelo Standard.

Louisville, Miss. Journal
July 23, 1937

The Tuskegeee Institute of Alabama, gives out the number of lynchings in the south as 4, the same as last year. Alabama one, Georgia one, and Mississippi two. The negroes are maybe getting better. The number of rapists control the number of lynchings except in Alabama. Alabama is due to have five more, if there were any real men in that State, and a New York lawyer would do well to escape in some southern States.

LYNCHINGS TOTAL SEVEN

Tuskegee Institute Reports for First Nine Months of Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 13.—(INS)—Lynchings for the first nine months of this year reached a total of seven, Monroe N. Work, director of the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

Florida and Mississippi each had two lynchings while Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee had one each.

JUL 20 1937

SIX LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., July 20.—(AP)—Lynching of two negroes at Tallahassee, Fla., today brought to six the number killed by mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records said.

The Tuskegee records showed eight lives were taken by mobs in southern states during 1936.

Butler, Ga., Herald
September 16, 1937

LYNCHINGS FOR YEAR REACH TOTAL OF 7

Tuskegee, Ala., Sept. 13.—Lynchings for the first nine months of the year reached a total of seven, M. N. Work, director of the Department of Records of Tuskegee Institute, said Monday.

Florida and Mississippi each had two lynchings, while Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee had one each, Work said.

it was said. Florida's record was made when two negroes were taken from jail at Tallahassee and shot after they had been arrested for the stabbing of a policeman who had attempted to arrest them for breaking into a restaurant.

According to Tuskegee records eight persons were lynched in 1936 as compared with 20 during 1935.

SEP 13 1937

Lynchings for Year Reach Total of 7

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 13.—Lynchings for the first nine months of this year reached a total of seven, Monroe N. Work, director of the Department of Records of Tuskegee Institute, said today.

Florida and Mississippi each had two lynchings, while Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee had one each, Work said.

Rome, Ga News-Tribune
September 13, 1937

Nine Months Lynching Total Reaches Seven

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Sept. 13.—(INS)—Lynchings for the first nine months of this year reached a total of seven, Monroe N. Work, director of the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute said today.

Florida and Mississippi each had two lynchings while Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee had one each, Work said. Florida's record was made when two negroes were taken from jail at Tallahassee and shot after they had been arrested for the stabbing of a policeman who had attempted to arrest them for breaking into a restaurant.

Tupelo, Miss. News
October 4, 1937

SEVENTH LYNCHING

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Oct. 4 (AP)—Lynching of a negro near Milton, Fla., last night was the eighth such occurrence in the South during 1937, records of Tuskee Institute revealed today.

Institute records listed two previous lynchings in Florida, two in Mississippi, and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Lynchings-1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press

The Names of Newspapers are from Clippings as per Samples.
6

Jan. - Dec.

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Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
December 28, 1937

8 LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR

Number Same as Last Year But 51 Lynchings Are Avoided in South

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28.—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee institute there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935, and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3, Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Alberton, Ga., Star
December 31, 1937

Fewer Lynchings

During Past Year

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime agafnst nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President

Boaz, Alabama—Mountain Sun
December 31, 1937

Laurinburg, N. C. Exchange
December 30, 1937

York, S. C., Yorkville Enquirer
December 31, 1937

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
December 30, 1937

Alexander City, Ala., Outlook
December 30, 1937

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
December 30, 1937

Walhalla, S. C. Courier
January 6, 1938

Covington, Tenn. Leader
December 30, 1937

Albertville, Ala., Banner
December 28, 1937

Thomaston, Ga., Times
December 31, 1937

Ashland, Ala. Progress
December 30, 1937

Cullman, Ala., Tribune
December 30, 1937

Marion, Ala., Standard
December 30, 1937

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
December 30, 1937

Carrollton, Ga., Times
December 30, 1937

Blakeley, Ga. News
December 30, 1937

Millen, Ga., News
December 30, 1937

Ozark, Ala., Star
December 30, 1937

Opp, Ala., News
December 30, 1937

Ocilla, Ga., Star
December 30, 1937

Starkville, Miss. News
December 31, 1937

Canton, Miss. Herald
December 31, 1937

Lake City, S. C., News
December 30, 1937

Ayden, N. C., Dispatch
December 30, 1937

Loudon, Tenn., Herald
January 6, 1938

Kingstree, S. C., Record
December 30, 1937

Seneca, S. C., Journal
December 30, 1937

Clanton, Ala., Banner
December 30, 1937

Rosedale, Miss. Democrat
December 30, 1937

Clinton, N. C., Independent
December 30, 1937

[redacted]
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER
NEW YORK N Y TIMES
SATURDAY JANUARY 1
RUTLAND VT HERALD
MONDAY JANUARY 3

Memphis, Tenn., Press-Scimitar
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

[redacted]
DEC 30 1937

YOUNGSTOWN OHIO VINDICATOR
SUNDAY JANUARY 2 1938

MOBERLY, MO., MONITOR-INDEX
DEC. 27, 1937 J4

PARKERSBURG W VA NEWS
SUNDAY JANUARY 2 1938

VICKSBURG, MISS. POST
DEC. 28, 1937 J3

[redacted]
TALLAHASSEE FLA DEMOCRAT
TUESDAY DECEMBER
STAMFORD CONN ADVOCATE
TUESDAY DECEMBER
WASHINGTON D C POST
TUESDAY DECEMBER
SUMTER S C ITEM
MONDAY DECEMBER

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
January 5, 1938

Carthage, N. C., News
January 6, 1938

ASHLAND, KY., INDEPENDENT
DEC. 27, 1937 J10

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEB. STAR-HER.
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

MURFREESBORO, TENN. NEWS
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

ALEXANDER CITY Ala. OUTLOOK
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

CRYSTAL CITY TEX. SENTINEL
DEC. 31, 1937 J8

EVERGREEN, ALA, COURANT
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

KNOXVILLE, TENN., NEWS-SENT.
DEC. 29, 1937 J7

TUSKEGEE ALA. NEWS
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

BOWLING GREEN, KY., TIMES-JR.
DEC. 27, 1937 J10

SELMA, ALA. TIMES-JOURNAL
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. TIMES
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

OMAHA, NEB. JOURNAL STOCKMAN
DEC. 29, 1937 J6

BROWNWOOD, TEX., BULLETIN
DEC. 29, 1937 J7

YORK NEBR. NEWS-TIMES
DEC. 29, 1937 J7

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB. NEWS
DEC. 30, 1937 J7

FAYETTEVILLE, TENN, NEWS
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

WEWOKA OKLA. TIMES-DEMOCRAT
DEC. 28, 1937 J10

COMMERCE, TEX., JOURNAL
DEC. 30, 1937 J10

NEWPORT, ARK., INDEPENDENT
DEC. 29, 1937 J5

[redacted]
DEC 31 1937

[redacted]
JAN 6 1938

[redacted]
DEC 30 1937

[redacted]
DEC 29 1937

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DEC 30 1937

[redacted]
DEC 30 1937

NEWPORT, ARK., INDEPENDENT
DEC. 31, 1937 J8

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DEC. 30, 1937 J6

TROY, ALA. MESSENGER
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

CLAYTON, ALA. RECORD
DEC. 31, 1937 J8

SHAWNEE, OKLA., NEWS
DEC. 28, 1937 J10

BIRMINGHAM ALA. POST
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

NAVASOTA, TEX., EXAMINER
DEC. 27, 1937 J7

BIRMINGHAM ALA. NEWS
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

COTHAN, ALA., EAGLE
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

COOKEVILLE TENN. HERALD (wk)
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

ANNISTON, ALA. STAR
DEC. 28, 1937 J6

McCOOK (NEB.) GAZETTE
DEC. 29, 1937 J1

WICHITA FALLS, TEX. TIMES
DEC. 27, 1937 J8

DENISON, TEX. HERALD
DEC. 27, 1937 J6

DYERSBURG, TENN., GAZETTE
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

HUNTSVILLE, ALA. TIMES
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

MONROE LA. WORLD
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., LEAF-CHRON
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

ABBEVILLE, ALA. HERALD
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

McMINNVILLE, TENN., STANDARD
DEC. 31, 1937 J8

CUSHING (OKLA) CITIZEN
DEC. 28, 1937 J10

CROSSVILLE, TENN. CHRON.
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

COVINGTON TENN. LEADER (wk)
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

DEL RIO, TEX., HERALD
DEC. 31, 1937 J8

SHAWNEE OKLA. STAR
DEC. 27, 1937 J10

MONROE LA. NEWS-STAR
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

NASHVILLE TENN. BANNER
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

OPELIKA, ALA., NEWS
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

EUFAULA ALA. TRIBUNE
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

OSCEOLA, ARK. TIMES
DEC. 31, 1937 J5

MONTGOMERY, ALA. JOURNAL
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

LA FOLLETTE, TENN. PRESS
DEC. 31, 1937 J8

ALEXANDRIA, LA. TOWN TALK
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

ATHENS TENN. POST-ATHENIAN
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., NEWS
DEC. 27, 1937 J5

ALICE (TEX.) NEWS
DEC. 30, 1937 J8

NORMAN, OKLA., TRANSCRIPT
DEC. 28, 1937 J11

LEXINGTON, KY., HERALD
DEC. 29, 1937 J11

WAHOO (NEB.) WASP
JAN. 6, 1938 J12

MIAMI, OK. NEWS-RECORD
DEC. 31, 1937 J12

VOAKUM, TEX., HERALD wk
DEC. 30, 1937 J11

CLAUDE, TEX., NEWS
DEC. 31, 1937 J12

Loudon

DICKSON, TENN., HERALD
JAN. 6, 1938 J13

HUGO, OK. NEWS
DEC. 28, 1937

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. WORLD
JAN. 4, 1938 J11

ROANOKE, ALA., LEADER
JAN. 5, 1938 J11

LITTLE ROCK ARK. METHODIST
JAN. 6, 1938 J11

OWENSBORO, KY., MESSENGER
DEC. 28, 1937 J5

OKMULGEE OKLA. TIMES
JAN. 1, 1938

CARLISLE, KY., MERCURY,
DEC. 30, 1937 J11

MOBILE, ALA. TIMES
JAN. 6, 1938 J13

BURKBURNETT, TEX., STAR
DEC. 30, 1937 J11

FREMONT, NEB. TRIBUNE
JAN. 4, 1938 J12

LOWELL MASS COURIER CITIZEN
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

BROOKLYN N Y EAGLE
SUNDAY JANUARY 2 1938

MONTPELIER VT ARGUS
SATURDAY JANUARY 8 1938

Lynchings-1937
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SHREVEPORT LA. TIMES
JAN. 10, 1938

THE LYNCH TOTAL

Only eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937 and in Louisiana not a single lynching occurred. Also, only five of the 48 states are on the lynching list. It would seem that good progress is being made toward the elimination of lynchings, and that a federal law on the subject might do much more harm than good.

St. Matthews, S. C., Times
January 6, 1938

Information Concerning Lynchings

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1935. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States.

Tallasse, Ala., Tribune
January 14, 1938

1937 REPORT OF LYNCHINGS

There were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death

at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

New Iberia, La. Iberian
December 30. 1937

8 LYNCHINGS IN FIVE STATES

F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute, reports the following findings on lynchings up to December 27, 1937:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augumented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

"The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

Douglas, Ga., Progress
January 13, 1938

SOUTH SCENE OF ALL 1937 LYNCHINGS

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee. 1.

Pennington Gap, Va., News
December 30. 1937

8 Persons Lynched In 1937

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repeal the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Missippi, 2; Tennessee 1.

WEBSTER CITY IOWA Freeman Journal
FRIDAY JANUARY 14 1938

Many people think that lynching in the south is due mainly to attacks on women by negroes. But that is not true. According to the research department of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, founded by Booker T. Washington, there were 20 lynchings in 1935. Of that number 3 were charged with rape and 3 with attempted rape. 7 were accused of murder. Other causes were: Altercation with white man 1, activity in share-cropping organizing 1, attacking a person 1, taking prisoner from officer of law 1, killed by mob in search of another person 1, slapping a woman 1, communistic activity 1. It appears from this list of causes that men are sometimes lynched in the south for very trivial offenses. The Institute reports that only 8 persons were lynched last year and only 8 in 1936.

AUSTIN, TEX. AMERICAN
JAN. 8, 1938 J18

Lynch-Free Year for Texas

Lynchings in the United States this year have numbered eight, the same as in 1936. This was 12 fewer than in 1935 and seven less than in 1934.

All eight victims were taken from officers, three directly from jails. All were negroes.

But with the record of eight lynchings, Tuskegee institute has reported that in 56 instances officers have prevented lynchings by saving five white men and 72 negroes from mobs.

Texas has the fine record of going through the year without a single instance of lynch barbarity. Florida furnished three of the crimes; Mississippi, two, and Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia, one each.

Fifty-one of the 56 lynchings thwarted by officers were in Southern states, five in Northern states. This is a fair record which tends to disprove the contention of advocates of the federal anti-lynch law that it is needed to end this barbarous practice. The South is slowly but surely doing away with lynching, thanks to courageous officers and the operation of public opinion.

COSHOCTON OHIO TRIBUNE
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19 1938

Time to Revise?

From the Baltimore Evening Sun.

TUSKEGEE'S annual report of lynchings for the last year includes a total of eight, of which two were committed in Mississippi and three in Florida.

This raises a question. According to all statistical summaries, Mississippi is the worst state, economically, politically, culturally, hygienically and every other way. But in 1937, Mississippi had only two lynchings, against Florida's three. Moreover, it was in Florida that Ku Kluxism broke out again last year. It was in Florida that a labor organizer was beaten to death, perhaps by policemen, altho nobody has gone to jail for it. Cafes are wrecked by natives who dislike the patrons' morals.

It is in evidence that Florida hates everybody, including even tourists who go to the state to spend their vacation, and labor organizers.

This reminds us that the figures showing Mississippi as the worst state were collected some years ago. Perhaps it is time to revise the statistical tables.

BEEVILLE (TEX.) PICAYUNE
JAN. 13, 1938 J21

Eight Lynchings Occur During 1937

Eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937, the same number as in 1936, according to a report from Tuskegee Institute. This number is 12 less than in 1935 and seven less than in 1934. The number of lynchings in the various states this year was as follows: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee 1 each.

Three of the persons lynched were taken from jails and the other five were taken from officers outside jails. There were 56 instances in which peace officers prevented lynchings, a total of 77 persons, five whites and 72 negroes, being involved.

BOWLING GREEN, KY., TIMES-JR
JAN. 10, 1938 J19

8 LYNCHINGS IN 1937

Tuskegee, Ala., Jan. 10 (INS)—With eight lynchings during 1937, the number remained the same as last year, the annual report of the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research said. However, in comparison with figures of 1935 and 1934 there was a decided decrease. Twenty persons were lynched in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

WATERBURY CONN REPUBLICAN
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13 1938

ANNUAL statistics are published by the Tuskegee Institute in the matter of lynchings in the United States. The number for the past year was eight, the same as 1936. This, however, compares well with the 20 for 1935 and 15 for 1934 and the drop may perhaps be attributed to counter sentiment stirred by the anti-lynching bill which has been before Congress during recent sessions.

The states in which the lynchings occurred in 1937, and the number for each were: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and all of the victims were Negroes, emphasizing facts we all know, namely that lynching is a Southern manifestation, almost exclusively, and the motive for it lies bedded in racial hatred.

A particularly dismal aspect of the 1937 lynching picture is the blow torch ordeal to which two of the victims were submitted. An encouraging feature is the fact that there were 56 instances of the authorities, by alert and determined action, saving victims from lawless mobs.

If the congressional agitation against lynching is indeed to be thanked for a less abject record through the South in the past two years, perhaps we are witnessing a consciousness in that section of the deep revulsion with which mob action there is viewed in sister states. Maybe it would be too much to hope that such an influence will finally solve the problem and banish the lynching spirit but it would be a most welcome outcome. A federal law against lynching would be an extension of the federal authority unnecessary if states would do their duty and perhaps an encroachment on the rights of the states that the supreme court would not allow.

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MADISONVILLE, KY., MESSENGER
JAN. 6, 1938 J12

FLORIDA WORST STATE

Tuskegee's annual report of lynchings for the last year includes a total of eight, of which two were committed in Mississippi and three in Florida.

This raises a question. According to all statistical summaries, Mississippi is the worst state, economically, politically, culturally, hygienically and every other way.

But in 1937 Mississippi had only two lynchings, against Florida's three. Moreover, it was in Florida that Ku Kluxism broke out again last year. It was in Florida that a labor organizer was beaten to death, perhaps by policemen, although nobody has gone to jail for it. It is in Florida that cafes patronized by visitors are wrecked by natives who dislike the visitors' morals.

It is in evidence that Mississippi hates Negroes; but it is in evidence that Florida hates everybody, including even tourists who go to the State to spend their vacation, and with more venom against labor organizers than even Henry Ford exhibits.

This reminds us that the figures showing Mississippi as the worst State were collected some years ago. Perhaps it is time to revise the statistical tables to see if they still tell the same story.

TYLER, TEX. COURIER-TIMES
DEC. 28. 1937 J11

Law Enforcement

You will recall that the chief purpose of the misnamed anti-lynching bill is to compel law enforcement officers to protect prisoners threatened with mob violence.

Well, yesterday, with the year in its final week, Tuskegee Institute, outstanding negro school, put out its final figures on 1937 lynchings. The total was eight, the same as last year.

Texans, checking the list of five states in which mob violence occurred, were glad to note that no lynching marred our orderly processes of the law during the twelvemonth.

But to us one of the most significant parts of the Tuskegee report was a statement that, in 56 instances, officers of the law had prevented lynchings during the year.

Yet a bunch of cheap politicians are going right ahead in January and try to place an unnecessary and unconstitutional law on the statute books.

ABILENE, TEX. EV. REP.-NEWS
DEC. 29, 1937 J12

Lynching Declines.

R. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, writes that lynchings in the United States in 1937 were the same as in 1936, eight; twelve fewer than in 1935 and seven fewer than in 1934. All of the victims were taken from the hands of the law, three directly from jails.

Over against these blots on the law's record may be placed 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings, saving the lives of five white men and 72 negroes. All of the lynching victims were negroes. Florida had the worst record, with three; Tennessee one, Alabama one, Georgia one and Mississippi two. Texans will note with pride that the Lone Star State was lynch-free in 1937—a tribute to the good sense of Texans in general and the vigilance of her officers in particular.

Fifty-one of the 56 lynchings thwarted by officers were in Southern states, five in Northern states. This is a fair record which tends to disprove the contention of advocates of the federal antilynch law that it is needed to end this barbarous practice. The South is slowly but surely doing away with lynching, thanks to courageous officers and the operation of public opinion. Given a few more years and the disgraceful practice will be stamped out altogether.

People have come to realize that the chief sufferer at any lynching party is the majesty of the law. More and more it is being allowed to take its course.

COSHOCTON OHIO TRIBUNE
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5 1938

Officers and Lynchings

THE annual compilation of statistics on lynchings in the United States by the president of Tuskegee Institute provides an excellent argument for the enactment of the federal antilynching bill now pending in the senate. All eight of the victims in 1937 were taken from the hands of the law—three removed by mobs from jails and five taken from officers of the law outside of jails. On the other hand, in 56 instances—51 of them in the southern states—vigilant and dutiful officers of the law prevented lynchings. These officers either removed their prisoners to places of safety or strengthened the guard or used authority and force to turn back mobs bent on taking the law into their own hands. Had the officers of the law in the eight lynching cases exercised the same care and provided the same protection as those in the 56 cases, the United States would now be looking back on a year free of lynchings. And that is precisely what the Wagner-Van Nuys bill seeks to do—to require that same diligence in duty or the payment of a heavy penalty for the failure to afford adequate protection.

FREMONT OHIO MESSENGER
TUESDAY JANUARY 4, 1938

LYNCHING ON DECLINE

A gratifying commentary on the progress of civilization in the United States is found in the few lynchings that occur in a year, as compared with the period preceding 1900 when the lynchings for a single year quite consistently ran above one hundred and in 1892 reached the black record of 231.

Figures gathered by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, show a total of eight lynchings in 1937—exactly the same as in 1936.

Except for an occasional reversion, the past 37 years have been marked by a consistent decline in the number of lynchings. It is interesting to note that all eight of the 1937 lynchings were in southern states, the record being Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

From this showing it would appear that even those states in which lynching was resorted to with considerable frequency in earlier years have established law and order to the extent of abolishing this manifestation of barbarity.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. TIMES
JAN. 5, 1938 J11

THE LY. NG RECORD.

The lynching record in 1937 falls somewhat short of being an ideal defense against the argument that what the Nation needs to stamp out that form of mob violence is a Federal antilynching law. According to the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were, up to December 24, eight lynchings this year, the same number as in 1936. The fact that in 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, and the additional fact that the number of lynchings this year is twelve less than in 1935 are cited by opponents of the anti-lynching bill as evidence of increasing enlightenment in the sections where lynchings occur most frequently.

The South is, of course, the greater offender. The eight lynchings in 1937 occurred in Southern States—one in Tennessee; one in Georgia; one in Alabama; two in Mississippi, and three in Florida—and of the fifty-six instances in which lynchings were prevented, fifty-one occurred in the South and five in the North. The number of instances in which prompt police action frustrated lynch mobs is the only gratifying factor in the Tuskegee Institute's report. Those who contend the reduction in lynchings since 1935 reveals the South is dealing effectively with the problem have yet to explain the fact that in 1935, there were five more lynchings than in 1934.

Apologists for the South have also to explain why it was that every lynching in 1937 was committed despite the fact that the victims were in the hands of the law. According to the Tuskegee report, three of the victims were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Those lynchings could easily have been prevented if officers charged with protecting the lives of the victims had upheld their sworn duty.

The records show that 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs. In fifty-one of the instances, the prisoners were either removed from jails near which the population was aroused, or the number of

...ases at the jails was increased. In five instances, armed forces were used to repel the would-be lynchers. Considering the number of persons lynched, the number of lynchings prevented gives rise to the hope that progress is being made. But the South still has good reason for little more than hope. For the fact remains that not in a single case of lynching in 1937 has there been a conviction. The mobs have been fewer, but their members have gone unpunished.

A Federal antilynching law would create a situation in which the Federal authority would inevitably come into conflict with the police power of the State. If the pending antilynching bill were enacted and upheld by the Supreme Court, it would still be far from the ideal way to deal with a perplexing social problem. Yet that method is apparently about to be adopted, and solely because the South has refused to deal realistically with a relic of barbarism; because the South still refuses to punish those who ride with mobs.

SOUTH ATTLEBORO MASS CHRON
SATURDAY JANUARY 8 1938

Church And Lynching

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported eight lynchings of Negroes in 1937 and that in 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. The long-time trend of lynchings is downward, and President Patterson said it was due in part to a new spirit among Southern churches and churchmen.

A prominent Catholic praised a Hindu this week, when the Papal Legate at the Madras, India, Eucharist Congress said in a public address: "Outside the Church no one perhaps echoes more eloquently the Church's appeal to Christian ethics than Mohandas K. Gandhi, who in his immense endeavor for India's economic uplift never loses sight of the supremacy of spiritual values."

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
January 13 1938

Information Concerning Lynchings for 1937

Following is interesting information concerning lynchings for the year 1937: It is found, according to records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

ROCK ISLAND ILL ARGUS
THURSDAY JANUARY 13 1938

Fewer Lynchings.

It is the plea of Senator Borah and a group of senators from southern states, who are filibustering against the anti-lynching bill, that the south has made great progress in eliminating lynching.

According to the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial institute of Alabama, eight persons were lynched in 1937, and this is to be compared with 20 for 1935 and 15 in 1934. The 1936 figure was eight.

In 1937 there were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, 51 of these in southern states. Altogether, 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Considering only the south, officers saved 72 persons and allowed eight to be lynched. All of the eight persons were taken from officers outside of jails, and the eight cases occurred in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

It should be borne in mind that about 12,000 persons were murdered in gangster warfare, chiefly in the north, last year; that 38,000 were killed by automobiles, and nearly 1,000 met death by mob violence of one kind or another, largely around mining and large industrial centers.

The facts are that the number of lynchings has decreased from several hundred a few years ago to eight in 1937, and an average of but 14 annually in a 10-year period. As originally drawn the anti-lynching bill would work against northern communities that permitted gangster, racketeer and mob violences to go unpunished.

While we think that eight lynchings are eight too many, we think it is obvious that the south has made commendable progress in putting its own house in order. We have always been opposed to lynching in north or south, but it does not follow that this anti-lynching bill represents the best attempt to put an end to a barbaric practice. And we have a suspicion that more than a few who support the measure planned the bill to be political bait in crowded northern negro districts—a lure for the negro vote.

If the administration should succeed in passing this bill it would face the possibility of a split in the Democratic party and losing a large part of the "solid south." The bill involves too much federal coercion and invasion of states' rights. In view of the reduction in the number of lynchings that has marked the last half-century we think that southern law-enforcement officials are being supported more and more by public opinion and that a good prospect exists for the virtual elimination of lynchings in the south. Under such circumstances we cannot see the necessity for the bill.

For that matter lynchings just as cruel and baseless have taken place in the north and some of these have come under our personal observation. Many of the murders by gangsters in the north are every whit as reprehensible as any southern lynching bee.

We doubt if any law can put an absolute stop to all lynchings. Some times, under dire provocation, a community takes the execution of justice into its own hands. We do not for a moment defend such a practice, but we recognize the fact that human passions at fever heat are occasionally liable to ignore all considerations of law or humanity.

We take comfort in the undoubted fact that the number of lynchings is decreasing at a most encouraging rate.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times-News
January 11 1938

NO COMFORT FOR THE SOUTH

No comfort to the South is contanied in the possibility that the so-called wages and hours measure will be finally enacted or in the probability that the cotton acreage restriction policy will continue to be followed. It may be too drastic to say that the South is coming more and more to be treated as the stepchild of the nation, but there are signs that this is exactly the case. For example, the anti-lynching bill, which, as this is written, is scheduled to come up once more in the senate, is aimed directly at the South. There is not the slightest need for a measure of this kind, as is shown clearly enough by the latest report of the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research, which reveals that only eight lynchings occurred during all of 1937. This, to be sure, is just eight too many, but it reveals much progress toward stamping out completely the evil of lynching. The number of lynchings during each decade has been reduced steadily for the last fifty years, which is in itself a good reason for believing that the South eventually will be able to eliminate lynching entirely. Another interesting fact contained in the Tuskegee Institute report is that officers of the law prevented lynchings in the South in fifty-one instances. Isn't that a good sign that southern law enforcement officials, backed by public opinion are doing their best to reduce lynching to the vanishing point? And yet it is more than possible that the so-called anti-lynching law, with all the attempted federal coercion and invasion of states' rights which it embodies, will be approved by the United States senate. It already has been approved by the house of representatives. Clearly, the South is going to have to protest, and to protest vigorously and loudly, unless it is willing to see more and more of its rights taken away and submerged in the powers of a vast centralized bureaucracy. What is the South going to do about it? Unless an answer is given soon, and action taken, it is going to be too late to answer and too late for action.—Texas Weekly.

HOUSTON, TEX., PRESS.
JAN. 8, 1938 J18

CHURCH AND LYNCHING

DR. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, reported eight lynchings of Negroes in 1937 and that in 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

The long-time trend of lynchings is downward, and President Patterson said it was due in part to a new spirit among Southern churches and churchmen.

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

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5816

Salisbury, N C Post
December 27, 1937

Eight Lynchings During the Year

Eight lynchings occurred during 1937, according to information from President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, of Alabama, which keeps annual records. This is the same number as for 1936, states President Patterson; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935, and seven less than the number 15 for 1934.

Continuing his report, he says:

"All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

Ft. Pierce, Fla., News & Tribune
December 27, 1937

1937 Lynch Toll Is Eight Persons

Florida Leads 5 Southern States in Lynchings During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research reported today. The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The 1937 death toll by states:

Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers prevented lynchings that would involve five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Of the 1937 lynching three were removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as rape 1; crime against nature and robbery 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer 2.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
December 28, 1937

SOUTH IS BLAMED FOR MOB DEATHS

President of Tuskegee Releases Statistics on Lynchings; Five States Named

Five southeastern states accounted for all 1937's eight lynchings, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said yesterday.

In a letter to local newspapers, Patterson said all the country's mob killings were confined to Florida, with three; Mississippi, with two, and Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia with one each.

The president of the Negro institution of Alabama said main alleged causes for the lynchings were murder, which accounted for four; wounding officers of the law, two; rape, and crime against nature and robbery, one each.

In the cases of two men slain by mobs, they were tortured before being killed, the Negro educator said. Both men, killed in Mississippi, were burned by blow torches. One then was shot; the other burned to death.

In spite of the number of successful lynchings, at least 56 were foiled. Five were in northern states; 51 in the South. In 51 cases, lynchings were avoided by shifting of prisoners to other jails or increasing of peace officers' forces. In the remaining five instances, mobs were turned aside by armed force.

All eight lynching victims were Negroes, President Patterson said.

Macon, Ga., News
December 27, 1937

OLD JUDGE LYNCH SETS BAD RECORD

Eight Lives Taken by Mob Violence During Year, All Being in South

Old Judge Lynch took the lives of eight Negroes during 1937, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said in a leter to The Evening News today.

All lynchings took place in Southeastern states, the Negro educator said. One was in Georgia.

In 56 instances, however, mob killings were averted. Attempted lynchings occurred five times in Northern states and 51 additional times in the South.

The number of persons killed by lynching during 1937 was the same as that of 1936. It showed a decrease of 12 under the number for 1935 and seven less than those of 1934.

Other Attempts Foiled

In 51 cases when lynchings were avoided, Patterson continued, the attempts were foiled by removal of prisoners from one jail to another or by increasing armed forces at the jails. In the remaining five cases, would-be lynchers were repelled by armed force. Saved were 7 persons, including five white men and two Negresses.

At least two of the eight victims were tortured before they were killed. In Mississippi, two Negroes were burned by blow torches. One then was shot to death and the other burned.

Murder, the Tuskegee president said, was the outstanding cause of mob violence. Four persons died as a result of charges of murder; one for rape; one for alleged crime against nature and robbery, and two for wounding officers of the law.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state were: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one, and Georgia, one.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
December 27, 1937

Eight Negroes Lynched This Year

Records kept by Tuskegee Institute reveal eight lynchings during the present year. All the victims were negroes. One of the lynchings was in Alabama, three in Florida, one in Georgia, two in Mississippi and one in Tennessee.

The number was the same for 1936.

Concord, N C Tribune
December 28, 1937

ESCAPED AGAIN.

Unless the mob spirit breaks through within the next couple of days, North Carolina in 1937 again will escape without a single lynching against her record.

Eight persons were lynched during the year according to President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, and the lynchings were confined to five Southern States.

North Carolina hasn't solved the last mob attack within her borders, primarily because those in authority didn't care whether they solved it, so it seems we are fortunate in that the mob spirit didn't manifest itself during the year. In some instances our officers have been courageous enough to fight the mob; in others they turned over their prisoners with the old excuse of being "overpower by masked men."

Lynchings can be stopped throughout the land when a majority of the people want them stopped. And they can't be stopped by federal legislation. The desire must come from within not from without.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
December 28, 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS IN 1937

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 28—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute eight persons were lynched in 1937. This is the same number, eight, as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20, for 1935; and seven less than the number, 15, for 1934. All the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee, 1.

LYNCH EIGHT IS 1937 RECORD

The Tuskegee Institute
December 23, 1937.

Dear Sir:

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Colored, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Colored. The offenses charged were rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Columbus, Miss., Commercl Disp
December 28, 1937

56 LYNCHINGS PREVENTED

Statistics compiled and issued by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, show that in 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1937. Five were prevented in Northern States and 51 in Southern States.

These figures should be the answer to the unanswerable proposal for an anti-lynching law now pending in Congress.

The South did more to prevent lynchings than all of the north put together.

In the North they simply let the racketeers, murderers, and gangsters slay their victims.

Under the proposed anti-lynching law, however, gangsters, racketeers and strikers would be exempt from its provisions.

SOUTH IS BLAMED FOR MOB DEATHS

President of Tuskegee Releases Statistics on Lynchings; Five States Named

Five southeastern states accounted for all 1937's eight lynchings, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said yesterday.

In a letter to local newspapers, Patterson said all the country's mob killings were confined to Florida with three; Mississippi, with two, and Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia with one each.

The president of the Negro institution of Alabama said many alleged causes for the lynchings were murder, which accounted for four; wounding officers of the law, two; rape, and crime against nature and robbery, one each.

In the cases of two men slain by mobs, they were tortured before being killed, the Negro educator said. Both men, killed in Mississippi, were burned by blow torches. One then was shot; the other burned to death.

In spite of the number of successful lynchings, at least 56 were foiled. Five were in northern states; 51 in the South. In 51 cases, lynchings were avoided by shifting of prisoners to other jails or increasing of peace officers' forces. In the remaining five instances, mobs were turned aside by armed force.

All eight lynching victims were Negroes, President Patterson said.

compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee and released this week by Dr Frederick D. Patterson, president. The figure is 12 less than the number 20 lynched in 1935 and seven fewer than 1934's total of 15.

All of the eight victims were Negroes and all were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside the jails. The most brutal of them all was the double lynching at Duck Hill, Miss., when the victims were first tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other burned to death.

Despite the statements of many Southern politicians who defend lynching as a protection for white womanhood in Dixie, only one of the eight was accused of rape. Of the remaining seven, one was charged with a crime against nature and robbery, four with murder, and two with wounding officers of the law.

Florida led the parade of the states in which lynchings occurred.

Eight Lynchings Are Recorded as Old Year Closes

TUSKEGEE, Dec. 30—Eight persons, the same total as for 1936, were lynched in America this year, according to records

No Arrests In 8 Lynchings Of 1937

NEW YORK—(SNS) — There were eight lynchings during 1937 in the United States and not a single arrest of any suspected lynchers, the N.A.A.C.P. reported here today.

The most brutal lynching of the year was the double killing of Roosevelt Townes and "Boot Jack" McDaniels by a mob at Duck Hill, Miss., April 13. The two men were tied to trees, stripped and tortured with blow torches before being killed.

The most tragic lynching of the year was that of Wesley Johnson at Abbeville, Alabama February 1. Attorney General A. A. Carmichael of Alabama stated to the Alabama supreme court on June 5 that investigation had established that Johnson was completely innocent, that the sheriff knew he was innocent when he arrested him but took him into custody in order to satisfy local public opinion. Even with this knowledge, the sheriff did nothing to prevent Johnson's being lynched.

Florida led the year with three lynchings, followed by Mississippi two, and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee one each.

Lynching Is Tardily Obsolescent

From Newport News Daily Press

One of the principal arguments used by the Southern members of Congress who have fought the anti-lynching legislation is that lynching is on the decrease. The evil, they say, will cure itself in the long run and so no federal interference is necessary. That thought is borne out to some extent by the figures for this year though even one lynching is inexcusable many and the argument will not hold good until a vast improvement is shown even over this year's record.

The summary, compiled by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, reads thus:

"I find according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number (eight) as for 1936, 12 less than the number 20 for 1935 and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States, and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

This record shows that lynching obsolesence is all too tardy and that the forces of education are but slowly leavening the lump of those who would resort to the law of the jungle. If there is some reassurance in the fact that officers of the law successfully resisted mobs in 56 instances, there is also grim warning in the fact that there were 56 mobs bent on taking the law into their own hands during the year. We must cure the lynching evil not only by the efficiency of our protection of prisoners but by the elimination of the mob itself through education. It is not enough to say that lynching is on the wane. Its complete elimination is the only acceptable condition.

BIG SPRING (TEX.) HERALD
JAN. 3, 1938 J15

Lynching In 1937

Those who believe that anti-lynching sentiment in the South has developed to a point where it makes a federal law unnecessary can find support for that belief in the lynching figures for 1937. The statistics as compiled by Tuskegee Institute show eight lynchings in the year. That is the same figure as for 1936, which, if we recall correctly, waas the lowest attained. It compares with 20 lynchings in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Despite the improvement shown, 1937 saw the demaand for a federal anti-lynching law become more persistent than ever. The lynching in Floridaa, when the use of a blow-torch gave the affair a particularly horrible aspect, seemed for a while to defeat those who held that a federal law was inadvisable. The anti-lynching bill now pending seems doomed, but that is more because of features regarded as unworkable than because of opposition to the principle it involves.

The Tuskegee report shows that there were 56 other manifestations of the mob spirit, in which officers either outwitted or overawed would-be lynchers. One heartening feature of the situation in regard to lynching is the general attitude of peace officers in the South. The great majority of such officers realize their responsibility in such matters. That was not true a decade or so ago.

The 50-year record of mob violence shows a curious parallel between the price of cotton and the development of the mob spirit. Almost without exception, lynchings have been more numerous in years of low-priced cotton, less numerous in the years when the South's chief crop brought a good price.

The year just closed was an exception to that rule. The price of cotton has been below the cost of production, yet the unsatisfactory market has not been attended by many manifestations of the mob spirit.

The 1937 report has its encouraging aspects, but it does not change the situation in regard to lynching. That is to say, the South must either convince the nation that it can eradicate the mob evil, or submit to a federal law.—(Wichita Times.)

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, sent Press.

Jan. -Dec.

5817

EUREKA, CAL., TIMES
DECEMBER 31, 1937

LYNCHING REDUCED

America's disgraceful record of lynchin[g] gradually being reduced by the force [of] public opinion and better administration [of] law. The Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, founded by Booker T. Washington, keeps [a] detailed record and reports eight lynchings i[n] 1937, which is the same as for 1936 an[d] much better than the 20 reported in 193[5] and 45 in 1934.

That is still bad enough, but it is encour[a]ging to read in the Tuskegee report that [in] there were 56 instances in which officers of [the] law prevented lynchings. In some of these [cases] more than one person was in peril, and [the] report states that 77 were saved from [a] death at the hands of mobs.

The large majority of officers, then, are doing their duty. It is fair to supose that the officers did their best to prevent lynchings in some of the eight that did occur. The record does not support the contentions of those who want to put the federal government into a field that is reserved by the constitution to the states, on the grounds that local officers are not doing their duty.

EAST LIVERPOOL, OHIO REVIEW
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

The 77 Other Cases

TUSKEGEE Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is customarily used as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched; 7 less than for 1936. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings—51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselves.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
January 11, 1938

Worst State

The Baltimore Sun, doubtless under the influence of that vindictive "friend" of the South, H. L. Mencken, picks Florida as the worst state in the Union for 1937, because Florida had one more lynching than Mississippi, hitherto holding that distinction. Here's the Sun's comment:

Tuskegee's annual report of lynchings for the last year includes a total of eight, of which two were committed in Mississippi and three in Florida.

This raises a question. According to all statistical summaries, Mississippi is the worst state, economically, politically, curturally, hygienically and every other way.

But in 1937 Mississippi had only two lynchings, against Florida's three. Moreover, it was in Florida that Ku Kluxism broke out again last year. It was in Florida that a labor organizer was beaten to death, perhaps by policemen, although nobody has gone to jail for it. It was in Florida that cafes patronized by visitors are wrecked by natives who dislike the visitors' morals.

It is in evidence that Mississippi hates negroes; but it is in evidence that Florida hates everybody, including even tourists who go to the state to spend their vacation, and with more venom against labor organizers than even Jersey City exhibits.

This reminds us that the figures showing Mississippi as the worst state were collected some years ago. Perhaps it is time to revise the statistical tables to see if they still tell the same story.

Last year was the one year in all history that Florida led the country in the number of lynchings. That was unfortunate, but exceptional. The state's past comparatively good record in that respect is ignored in the Sun's present characterization. The statement of the Sun's editorial that "Florida hates everybody, including even tourists who go to the state to spend their vacations", is, of course, utterly false; and is refuted, if in no other way, by the large increase each season in the number of tourists who come to Florida and by the testimony they give by their coming and their stay here that Florida is hospitable to them, that Florida gives them the best climate, recreation and entertainment, and that, certainly, Florida doesn't hate them.

Florida pleads regretfully guilty to certain specific charges that have been brought against it, although, even in those aggravated cases, Floridians as a people and Florida as a state are not to be held accountable for the misdeeds of a few undesirable citizens or "floaters", but all Florida resents the charge that this is the worst state in the Union, because it happened to have as many as three lynchings last year.

KANSAS CITY KANS. KANSAN
DEC. 28, 1937 J6

A Year's Lynching Record

There was no reduction in the number of lynchings occurring in the United States during 1937, but the number was held to that of last year, according to the figures annually compiled by Tuskegee Institute.

The number was eight in both years, as compared with twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

It is significant to note that there were fifty-six instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and fifty-one in southern states. A total of seventy-seven persons, including five white men and seventy-two Negroes, were saved from mobs in these instances. This would seem to indicate a welcomed stiffening of opposition on the part of officers to lynching mobs and shows that such action is effective in forestalling mob action.

In view of the pronounced opposition of southern congressmen to proposed federal anti-lynching legislation, it is particularly significant to note that every one of the eight lynchings occurred in a southern state. They occurred as follows: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3 Mississippi, 2, and Tennessee, 1.

This country will not have a clear record in this revolting manner until there are no lynchings at all. Part of the progress can be attained thru legislation. Proposed federal legislation would serve chiefly to strengthen state and local law enforcement efforts, which in turn is another major part of the desired progress. Certainty of the law taking its proper course in the case of every crime will go far to remove the incentive for mob action. But the greatest need of all is for a more enlightened spirit among all people to the end that all will regard mob demonstrations as blots on social processes and on individual consciences.

KANSAS CITY, MO., STAR
DEC. 29, 1937 D30

As Gentlemen Debate.

While the antilynching bill remains high up on the senate calendar and is scheduled for another round of debate soon after Congress meets again next week, it is interesting to note another report of progress in the campaign against mob violence in America. It suggests what has been going on in the last twenty years as talk proceeded intermittently at Washington over some form of federal control.

To date, the number of lynchings this year has been eight, according to the record kept by Tuskegee Institute. If the year ends with the number unchanged it will equal the best showing made in more than half a century, or since annual tabulations were begun. The previous low of eight was recorded in 1932, with the total for 1936 standing at thirteen and that for 1935 at twenty-eight. Thus the irregular decline has come since the record high of 231 in 1892. Thus may the advance of law enforcement, public opinion and civilization continue, irrespective of the adoption of a federal policy on lynching.

NILES OHIO TIMES
THURSDAY JANUARY 6 1938

Lynching Records

DATA on lynching compiled by Tuskegee Institute may be relied upon, there would seem to be some reason to hope that, before the matter controversy over the issue is end[ed] in Congress, the advocates of a Federa[l] law on the subject will not have a great dea[l] of basis to urge such an enactment.

Tuskegee Institute reports that there were but eight lynchings of Negroes last year, the lowest with the exception of 1932, when there were also eight, since the records have been kept. In 1892 there were 231. From 1910 to 1928 the number varied from a high of 74 to a low of 33. The highest number recently was 30 in 1926. The total for 1933 was 18, and, as has been noted, the record for 19[37] was cut almost in half.

Such disgraceful outbreaks have varied so much from year to year that it is unsafe to predict that they may not again show increase. But the decline of lynchings over a long period of time gives ground for belief that we shall not witness in the future any thing approaching the amount of mob violence that prevailed ten or twenty years ago. This evidence of betterment because of a more vigorous public opinion in the matter, aided by more aggressive enforcement of the law in the localities, shows that the States are not wholly helpless before this menace. Their efforts ought not to cease until the score is perfect.

AKRON OHIO BEACON JOURNAL
FRIDAY DECEMBER 31 1937

1937's Lynch Record

Members of congress who held up the recent special session for days by filibustering against the anti-lynching bill ought to be made to read Tuskegee Institute's annual report on mob murders. It is an interesting document.

The 1937 death toll was eight. All victims were Negroes. Besides hanging, vigilantes resorted to blow torches, shooting and burning. The eight crimes were committed in five different states.

On the "brighter" side, if it can be called that, 77 persons were saved from mob fury by the action of peace authorities. In five instances a show of force was necessary to avert violence.

Eight deaths isn't as ghastly a record as in many previous years. But it is still enough to evidence the need for the legislation now pending. An anti-lynch law may not stop mob violence, but at least it will be a deterrent.

Mob leaders will think twice before they murder if they know that it isn't only friendly local officials with whom they must cope, but the federal government as well.

CANTON OHIO REPOSITORY
FRIDAY DECEMBER 31 1937

the 77 Other Cases

TUSKEGEE Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is customarily used as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched, 7 less than for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings —51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselves.

OMAHA NEBR. WORLD-HERALD
JAN. 1, 1938 J8

Dishonor Roll, 1937

Florida heads the year's dishonor roll with three lynchings according to the annual compilation made by Tuskegee institute. Mississippi follows with two and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee with one each, a total of eight. This is no worse than the record of 1936 and much better than that of 1935 and 1934.

The good news relating to this subject is contained in the announcement that in 56 instances the lynching of 77 persons was prevented. In five of these cases mobs were repelled by armed force.

As usual the south is by many degrees the most conspicuous in this dark record. And black men by many times outnumber whites as objects of lynching mob fury. But the north hasn't wholly clean hands. Five of the attempted lynchings occurred in the north and five of the victims saved from mob vengeance were whites.

One of the most healthy signs of modern times is the steady growth of an anti-lynching sentiment on the south. Although a majority of southern congressmen still oppose the proposal for federal interference with this kind of outlawry other tests indicate that it is at least an even question as to which way public opinion is inclined. Some influential southern newspapers openly advocate the measure and it has prominent organized support.

ANNISTON, ALA. STAR
JAN. 8, 1938 J14

Lynching Records

While the filibuster continues in the Senate to kill the anti-lynching bill, it is interesting to note the following comment on lynching records, as printed by The Baltimore Sun:

"If data on lynching compiled by Tuskegee Institute may be relied upon, there would seem to be some reason to hope that, before the bitter controversy over the issue is ended in Congress, the advocates of a federal law on the subject will not have a great deal of basis to urge such an enactment.

"Tuskegee Institute reports that there were but eight lynchings of Negroes last year, the lowest with the exception of 1932, when there were also eight, since the records have been kept. In 1892 there were 231. From 1910 to 1923 the number varied from a high of 74 to a low of 33. The highest number recently was 30 in 1926. The total for 1936 was 13 and, as has been noted, the record for 1937 was cut almost in half.

"Such disgraceful outbreaks have varied so much from year to year that it is unsafe to predict that they may not again show increase. But the decline of lynchings over a long period of time gives ground for belief that we shall not witness in the future anything approaching the amount of mob violence that prevailed 10 or 20 years ago. This evidence of betterment because of a more vigorous public opinion in the matter, aided by more aggressive enforcement of the law in the localities, shows that the states are not wholly helpless before this menace. Their efforts ought not to cease until the score is perfect."

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., EXPRESS
JAN. 6, 1938 J14

TEXAS AGAIN ABSENT FROM THE LYNCHING RECORD

The lynch-murder infamy, which only a few years ago disgraced numerous Southern States, including Texas —that too frequently ranked at or near the head of the annual record— is apparently on the decline again.

During 1937 — the record kept by Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute indicates—eight persons were put to death by mobs. All the victims were Negroes and the atrocities occurred in five Southern States.

Florida heads the list, charged with three mob crimes. Mississippi, with a lynching that claimed two victims, is in second place. Texas is absent from the roll.

The shocking circumstances attending the Mississippi outbreak—in which two Negroes on trial for having killed a white man were seized from officers and burned to death with a blow-torch —probably influenced Congress to pass the Gavagan Bill, making lynching an offense against the Federal Government. That measure still is pending in the Senate, where filibusters have delayed action on it and may defeat it in the end. Still, the House's action had a good moral effect and may partially account for the relatively low lynching total.

However—as the Tuskegee report shows—the greater share of the credit belongs to fearless peace officers— mostly sheriffs and deputies — who foiled 56 mobs bent upon lynching. Swift removal of the prisoners to safety, quick-witted ruses to deceive the mob and (in five instances) armed resistance saved 77 persons—including five white men—from lynch-murder.

Until the slower processes of education shall create the enlightened sentiment needed to wipe out the blot forever, such official courage and resourcefulness must remain the people's bulwark against the mob-menace. For that reason the Commission on Interracial Co-operation, in Atlanta, does well to reward those traits with gold medals.

COUNCIL BLUFFS IA NONPT
SUNDAY JANUARY 9 1938

Anti-Lynching Law Unnecessary

Our abhorrence of lynching is so great that we can find no words too harsh to characterize the despicable and cowardly acts of mobs. Nevertheless, we do not believe that the anti-lynching bill now being debated in the senate is necessary or desirable.

We base our opinion on a letter recently received from Tuskegee Institute, the great Negro school of the south, founded by Booker T. Washington. According to this letter, lynching is rapidly being wiped out. Only eight men were lynched during 1936 and the same number in 1937. There were fifteen lynchings in 1934 and twenty in 1935.

It is true that all of the 1937 lynchings occurred in the south and all of the victims were Negroes. Three lynchings occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. We do not condone these outrages.

But during the same year, there were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. All but five of these were in the southern states.

We submit that the states are making significant progress in dealing with this situation. There would seem to be little occasion for the federal government to intervene in view of the progress that has been made. We are convinced that the southern people are making an honest and sincere effort to wipe out this disgrace.

In view of the progress made and the undesirability of federal intervention in matters the states are competent to handle, we feel that congress ought to drop the matter for the time being at least. Moreover, we believe that the bill now pending is unconstitutional as Senator Borah so ably maintains.

BRISTOW, OKLA., RECORD
JAN. 6, 1938 J15

Lynchings

EIGHT PERSONS were lynched in 1937 in five Southern states, according to the annual report of Tuskegee institute.

The number of lynch victims was the same as for 1936, but was 12 less than for 1935 and seven less than for 1934, the report shows.

All of the victims were Negroes and were under arrest. Three were taken from jails and five from officers.

Officers prevented lynchings in 56 instances.

The states in which the Negroes were lynched were Alabama, Florida, 3, Georgia, Mississippi, 2, and Tennessee.

Lynchings - 1937
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Reports on, Sent Press.

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Opelousas, La. Gazette

DEC 28 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS IN 1937

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 28.—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, eight persons were lynched in 1937. This is the same number, eight, as for 1936; 12 less than the number, 20, for 1935; and seven less than the number, 15, for 1934. All the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings; five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances, the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

toll also was eight.

The 1937 death toll by states:

Florida three; Mississippi two; Tennessee one; Alabama one; Georgia one.

In 56 instances, the institute deported, officers prevented lynchings that would involve five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Of the 1937 lynchings three were removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as rape one; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer two.

TAMPA FLA TRIBUNE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

8 Negroes Reported Lynched During 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(A.P.) Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 lynch

CHARLOTTE N C OBSERVER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

LYNCHING TOLL HELD TO EIGHT

Institute Reports Same Number Killed By Mobs in 1937 as in 1936.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

Deaths by States this year:

Florida three; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; Alabama, one; Georgia, one.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these instances occurred in northern States and 51 in the South.

The institute, America's largest negro college, issued its report without comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offenses charged against the victims were listed as rape, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding of officer, two.

OCALA FLA STAR
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

Florida Leads Nation In Lynchings In 1937 Is Tuskegee's Report

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The 1937 death toll by states: Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers prevented lynchings that would involve five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Of the 1937 lynchings three were removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Offenses charged against the victims were listed as rape 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Durham, N. C. Sun
December 27, 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS OCCUR OVER 1937

Tuskegee Institute Reports Florida Leads With 3; Mississippi Next With 2

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officer of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: Rape 1, crime against nature and robbery 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer 2.

TRENTON N J TIMES
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

LYNCHINGS OF YEAR

To the Editor of the Times:

Sir—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and another was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern States and 51 in southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would by lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON
President

Tuskegee, Alabama.

Miami. Fla. Herald
December 28, 1937

THE South maintained its lynch record during 1937, according to the Tuskegee Institute. Eight negroes died by lynching, the same as in 1936. This is neither progress nor retreat. Florida led the disgraceful procession with three. It is more pleasant to note that officers prevented executions in 56 instances. The law can prevail

Thomasville, Ga. Times-Enterprise
December 27, 1937

EIGHT NEGROES DIED BY LYNCHING DURING THE YEAR OF 1937

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27 (AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
December 27, 1937

Eight Are Lynched During Year, 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Savannah, Ga. Times
December 28, 1937

Southeast Lists Eight Lynchings For Year 1937

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 28—Eight lynchings occurred in five Southern States during 1937, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Eight lynchings were recorded in 1936, 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Clinton, S. C. Chronicle
December 30, 1937

Eight Lynchings Recorded In Year

Same Number Reported This Year As Last.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and reasearch reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida, 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the South.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer, 2.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 28, 1937

Decrease Shown In Lynching Toll Over Dixie In 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching at the hands of Southern mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of records and research has reported.

The 1936 death toll was identical.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings that would have involved five white men and 72 Negroes. Five of these instances occurred in Northern states and 51 in the South.

The institute, America's largest Negro college, issued its statistical report without comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Two were tortured with a blow torch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

The death toll by states: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee ,1; Alabama, 1; Georgia 1.

Americus Ga. Recorder
December 28, 1937

EIGHT LYNCHED IN PAST YEAR

TUSKEEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28 —(UP)—Lynch mobs killed eight persons, all Negroes, in the United States during 1937, the Tuskeegee Institute department of research and rec rders reported.

The toll by states:

Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; and Georgia, 1.

The same number met lynch deaths in 1936, records howed.

GAINESVILLE FLA SUN
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

Florida Tops Nation In Number Of Lynchings

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) — Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskeegee Institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 lynch toll also was eight. The 1937 death toll by states:

Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

LAGRANGE GA NEWS
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

Eight Persons Were Lynched During 1937

TUSKEEGA, Ala., Dec. 28.—(UP)—Lynch mobs killed eight persons, all negroes, in the United States during 1937, the Tuskeega Institute department of research reported today.

The toll by states:

Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

The same number met lynch deaths in 1936, records showed.

Shreveport, La., Times
January 10, 1938

THE LYNCH TOTAL

Only eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937 and in Louisiana not a single lynching occurred. Also, only five of the 48 states are on the lynching list. It would seem that good progress is being made toward the elimination of lynchings, and that a federal law on the subject might do much more harm than good.

8 Lynched In U.S. During 1937: Records Show All Colored

All Victims In The South; Law Officers Prevented 56 Lynchings During The Year

Florida led the nation in 1937 with three lynchings for the year, closely followed by Mississippi with two while Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia had one each.

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute Institute, there were 8 persons lynched in the United States in 1937. This is the same number, 8, for 1936, 12 less than the number 20 for 1935, and less than the total number, 15, in 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails, and five were taken from the hands of officers of the law outside of prisons. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

77 PERSONS SAVED FROM MOBS

There was 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of these instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white and 72 colored, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs in the United States during 1937.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were colored. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding an officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

LYNCHERS GOT EIGHT LAST YR., TUSKEGEE REPORTS

TUSKEGEE, Jan. 6—(ANP)—Eight persons, the same total as for 1936, were lynched in America this year, according to records compiled by he deparmen of records and research at Tuskegee and released this week by Dr. Frderick D. Patterson, president. The figure is 12 less than the number 20 lynched in 1935 and seven fewer than 1934's ttoal of 15.

All of the eight victims were Negroes and all were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside the jails. The most brutal of them all was the double lynching at Duck Hill, Miss., when the victims were first tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other burned to deah.

Despite the statements of many Southern politicians who defend lynching as a protection for white womanhood in Dixie, only one of the eight was accused of rape. Of the remaining seven, one was charged with a crime against nature and robbery, four with murder, and two with wounding officers of the law.

Florida led the parade of the States in which lynchings occurred with a toll of three lives taken in this fashion. Mississippi contributed two and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee had one each.

Officers prevented mob outrages in 56 instances, the records show, with five of these in Northern States and the remaining 51 in the South. In 51 of these cases, prisoners were removed for safekeeping, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used to repel mobs in the other five instances. Through this action, the lives of 77 persons representing five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were spared from mob violence.

BIRMINGHAM ALA. AGE-HERALD
JAN. 8, 1938 J14

Lynching Records

If data on lynching compiled by Tuskegee Institute may be relied upon, there would seem to be some reason to hope that, before the bitter controversy over the issue is ended in Congress, the advocates of a federal law on the subject will not have a great deal of basis to urge such an enactment.

Tuskegee Institute reports that there were but eight lynchings of Negroes last year, the lowest with the exception of 1932, when there were also eight, since the records have been kept. In 1892 there were 231. From 1910 to 1923 the number varied from a high of 74 to a low of 33. The highest number recently was 30 in 1926. The total for 1936 was 13 and, as has been noted, the record for 1937 was cut almost in half.

Such disgraceful outbreaks have varied so much from year to year that it is unsafe to predict that they may not again show increase. But the decline of lynchings over a long period of time gives ground for belief that we shall not witness in the future anything approaching the amount of mob violence that prevailed 10 or 20 years ago. This evidence of betterment because of a more vigorous public opinion in the matter aided by more aggressive enforcement of the law in the localities, shows that the states are not wholly helpless before this menace. Their efforts ought not to cease until the score is perfect.—The Baltimore Sun.

Augusta Ga Herald
December 27, 1937

8 PERSONS LYNCHED IN U. S. IN 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.— (AP) — Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Lynchings-1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press

Jan. – Dec.

5819

LANETT, ALA. NEWS
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

Eight Lynched In 1937, Tuskegee Institute Says

A check made on lynchings throughout the United States by the Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee and released this week shows that 8 persons were lynched in the United States during the present year.

This is the same number reported in 1936; 12 less than the number reported for the year 1935 and 7 less than the 1934 figure. There were 56 instances wherein officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states.

The report shows that all victims were in the hands of the law at the time of the lynchings. The eight persons lynched were all negroes. The offenses charged were rape, robbery, murder and wounding an officer. The states in which lynchings occurred were Alabama one, Florida three, Georgia one, Mississippi two and Tennessee one.

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskagee Institute.

"Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; and Tennessee, one.

"There were 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

"In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Attack, one; crime againts nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer, two."

WINFIELD KANS. COURIER
DEC. 27, 1937 J1

JUDGE LYNCH

While congress prepares for a finish battle over the anti-lynching law, reports compiled by Tuskegee institute show no gain in the number of persons done to death by mobs in the United States in the calendar year just closing. Eight were lynched this year against the same number in 1936.

However, there was a marked decline over the 20 lynched in 1935 and the 15 in 1934. All the persons lynched this year were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five seized from officers outside jails. All those lynched were Negroes.

The Tuskegee report says that two of the eight victims were tortured with blow torches before one was shot to death and the other burned. The offenses charged were various, only one answering with his life for the charge of rape. One was for a crime against nature, one for robbery, four for murder and two for wounding officers of the law.

The bright side of the report is that 56 times officers prevented possible lynchings. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were saved from possible mob violence. In 51 instances prisoners were removed from jails or guards augmented. In five other instances armed force was used to repel would be lynchers.

No lynchings occurred in northern states. The mob actions number three in Florida, two in Mississippi, and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

CINCINNATI OHIO ENQUIRER
THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1937

Lynch Statistics.

The Tuskegee Institute of Alabama's report on lynchings which occurred during 1937 shows the dimensions of the lynching problem to be quite different from those inferred in the demand for Federal antilynching legislation. The institute reports eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1937. Three were lynched in Florida, two in Mississippi, and one in each of the states of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Eight lynchings are just eight too many, but at the same time not a large enough number to prove the claim that state law in the South is impotent to deal with the crime of lynching. Eight lynchings occurred also during 1936, the record of the last two years showing a substantial improvement over 1935, when there were 20, and 1934, when there were 15.

It is, of course, difficult to consider impassively so vicious a crime. Each lynching is likely to be impressively hideous. But when actualities are considered — such factors as provocation, racial stress, air pockets in civilized influence, and other circumstances which enter into mob action—the occurrence of eight lynchings, scattered among five states of the South, is not an indicator that the South either condones or is powerless to curb the crime of lynching, but rather indicates that the reverse is true. Alongside national records of other heinous crimes, including those in which two or more persons participate, the year's total of lynchings is microscopic.

All eight of the persons lynched during 1937 were taken from the custody of officers; three were taken from jail. On the other hand, there were 56 instances in which peace officers prevented lynchings, rescuing from mobs a total of 77 persons, all but five Negroes, according to the Tuskegee Institute's report. Looking behind these statistics, at the instances where peace officers had to deal with overwhelming numbers of lynchers, in localities where only a thin veneer of civilization covers primitive instincts, it is again evident that state law and officers have grappled against lynch instincts with altogether remarkable success. The report of 77 persons saved from mobs, as compared with eight wrested from custody, hardly supports the contention that Federal intervention is necessary because the peace officers of the South wink at lynching.

SYLACAUGA, ALA., ADVANCE
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED IN '37

Nation's Total Is Same As Last Year, Well Under 1934 And 1935

Birmingham, Ala.—Eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937, the same number as in 1936, it was reported today by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskagee Institute.

The eight lynchings of 1937 show a reduction of 12 from the 1935 total, and are seven less than the number lynched in 1934.

"All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from the jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails," the report stated. The report was signed by

COVINGTON, KY., POST
DEC. 29, 1937 J10

EIGHT ARE KILLED BY MOBS IN 1937

Officials Prevented 56 Possible Lynchings, Records Show

By the United Press.

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 29.—Lynch mobs killed eight persons, all Negroes, in the United States during 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Research and Records reported today. The toll by states: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1, and Georgia, 1. The same number met lynch deaths in 1936, institute records showed.

Law enforcement officials prevented 56 possible lynchings which would have involved five white men and 72 Negroes, the institute reported.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
January 8, 1938

Lynching Records

If data on lynching compiled by Tuskegee Institute may be relied upon, there would seem to be some reason to hope that, before the bitter controversy over the issue is ended in Congress, the advocates of a federal law on the subject will not have a great deal of basis to urge such an enactment.

Tuskegee Institute reports that there were but eight lynchings of Negroes last year, the lowest with the exception of 1932, when there were also eight, since the records have been kept. In 1892 there were 231. From 1910 to 1923 the number varied from a high of 74 to a low of 33. The highest number recently was 30 in 1926. The total for 1936 was 13 and, as has been noted, the record for 1937 was cut almost in half.

Such disgraceful outbreaks have varied so much from year to year that it is unsafe to predict that they may not again show increase. But the decline of lynchings over a long period of time gives ground for belief that we shall not witness in the future anything approaching the amount of mob violence that prevailed 10 or 20 years ago. This evidence of betterment because of a more vigorous public opinion in the matter, aided by more aggressive enforcement of the law in the localities, shows that the states are not wholly helpless before this menace. Their efforts ought not to cease until the score is perfect.—The Baltimore Sun.

BALTIMORE MD MORNING SUN
SATURDAY JANUARY 1 1938

LYNCHING RECORDS

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increase. But the decline of lynchings over a long period of time gives ground for belief that we shall not witness in the future anything approaching the amount of mob violence that prevailed ten or twenty years ago. This evidence of betterment because of a more vigorous public opinion in the matter, aided by more aggressive enforcement of the law in the localities, shows that the States are not wholly helpless before this menace. Their efforts ought not to cease until the score is perfect.

ROME N Y SENTINEL
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

Eight Lynchings in 1937

According to the count kept by the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, the famous school of Negroes in Alabama, there have been eight lynchings in 1937—all in the South with Negroes the victims in all cases. There were three in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia—the grand total of eight being precisely the same as in 1936. On the face of the figures there has been no gain in the past year in the effort to suppress these unlawful executions; but the other side of the picture is provided by the institute's statisticians in that in fifty-six instances officers of the law are credited with preventing lynchings, five of these cases being in the North.

The fact that there has been no decrease in lynchings in the past twelve months will hardly lessen the pressure for enactment of the federal anti-lynching measure which was reputed to enjoy a preferred position when the recent special session of Congress opened, but which failed of passage. Southern legislators have urged that the South be permitted to work out this problem; Northern members of House and Senate have used the bill to browbeat the South as to other pending legislation. The measure is probably unconstitutional; if not, there can be hardly a doubt as to its unworkableness.

It is, of course, easy enough to rate every demonstration against a prisoner as an attempted lynching, so that officers may claim the distinction of having beaten off a mob. We might well wish to have the particulars attending each of the fifty-six cases in which officers of the law "prevented lynchings" as reported from Tuskegee. Yet there is circumstantial evidence that whereas here and there officers having prisoners in custody prove most remiss in permitting their charges to be taken from them without the firing of a shot, nevertheless elsewhere there is every now and then reported drastic action either to prevent such killings or to punish those officials who have supinely yielded their captives.

Batesville, Miss., Panolian
January 6, 1938

EIGHT LYNCHED IN U.S. DURING THE PAST YEAR

According to statistics compiled by Tuskegee Institute, eight persons have been lynched in the United States this year. Three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. All were Negroes. The Institute pointed out that officers prevented lynchings in 55 instances, with 51 of these being Southern States. This should serve as a pretty effective answer to those Yankee demagogues who are raving and ranting and tearing their hair for the passage of the anti-lynching bill. The South certainly possesses a cleaner bill of health in regard to lynchings than does the North with its gang murders, sex-crazed killers, hired assassins and thugs, cognizance of which is not made by anyone presently concerned with the enactment of anti-lynching legislation. The South has made wonderful progress toward abolishing lynchings within recent years and unfettered by Federal assistance will continue along the present progressive line.

NEWARK N J STAR EAGLE
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

South Lynching Record

The South maintained its lynch record during 1937, according to the Tuskegee Institute. Eight negroes died by lynching, the same as in 1936. This is neither progress nor retreat. Florida led the disgraceful procession with three. It is more pleasant to note that officers prevented executions in fifty-six instances. The law can prevail. When it so wishes. That's encouraging!

TOLEDO OHIO MORNING TIMES
FRIDAY DECEMBER 31 1937

A Lynching Plea

The United States' shameful score of lynching, compiled annually at the Tuskegee Institute, colored co-educational college in Macon county, Ala., adds up to eight for 1937.

F. D. Patterson, president of the school, points out the number for 1936 also was eight; for 1935, it was 20; and for 1934, it was 15.

All eight persons lynched this year were colored, the report asserts. They were charged with the following offenses: Statutory offense, 1; robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officers of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings happened were: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; and Tennessee, 1. All of the victims were in the hands of officers of the law when they were taken. Two were tortured before being killed.

There were, during 1937, 56 instances of persons escaping lynching; 5 in northern states, and 51 in southern states. In each case, the imperilled persons were protected either by moving them to places of greater safety or by augmenting their guards.

DAYTON OHIO DAILY NEWS
THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1937

The Lynching Record

The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama makes its annual report of lynching statistics. Eight persons were killed by mobs this year, all Negroes, and all of them in the south. The number is the same as in 1936, 12 less than in 1935, seven less than in 1934.

From these figures alone it might be concluded that lynching is dying out of itself and that federal legislation to eradicate this crime is unnecessary, as southern congressmen, successfully blocking enaction of such a measure thus far, have contended. The error of that view is evident in the far greater number of threatened lynchings which officers of the law prevented.

There were 56 such instances, five in the north, the balance in the south. In the vast majority of these cases it was necessary to remove prisoners, strengthen their guard or take other like precautions. On five occasions armed force was necessary to turn back a mob. By one method or another courageous officials thus saved 77 persons from lynching.

But the eight murdered by mobs were likewise in the hands of the law; several were taken from jails, five from officers outside. The success of the officers who held their prisoners spite of the threats of mobs heightens the shame of those who failed. In the circumstances the common declaration of mobs that they must mete out the justice which the law neglects is also given the lie. Two of the victims were tortured with blow torches before being put to death—another indication of the savagery, far removed from any spirit of justice, which actuates a mob.

Eight lynchings and 56 others prevented show the problem, southern congressmen to the contrary notwithstanding, still pressing.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. FREEPR.
JAN. 7, 1938 J17

Records Reveal Eight Negroes Lynched in '37

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (INS).—The Tuskegee Institute's department of research reported recently that eight persons, all Negroes were lynched at the hands of mobs during 1937. The department said the 1936 lynch total was also eight.

Three lynchings occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi, one in Tennessee, one in Georgia and one in Alabama.

During 1934 and 1935 20 lynchings occurred, the department said.

TALLADEGA, ALA., HOME
JAN. 10, 1938 J17

8 LYNCHINGS IN 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala. —(INS)— With eight lynchings during 1937, the number remained the same as last year, the annual report of the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research said. However, in comparision with figures of 1935 and 1934 there was a decided decrease. Twenty persons were lynched in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

NEW YORK N Y EVE POST
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12 1938

HOW EVILS OF LYNCHING CAN BE FOUGHT

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—We note with great interest the letter of F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, printed in The Post's Letters to the Editor on December 29, 1937.

The latter comes at a very significant and opportune time. The Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill, now in the Senate, aims to end once and for all the evil of lynching.

By its terms the Federal Government will be permitted to take over the investigation of lynchings when the State law-enforcing body has demonstrated its inability or lack of desire to take appropriate action. As has been proved by the great reduction in the number of kidnapings since the enactment of Federal legislation, such Federal legislation is by its mere enactment a great deterrent factor in the commission of crime.

This evolity has been and is en-

aged in a petition campaign and to date has secured many thousands of signatures in support of the bill. All public-spirited and civic-minded citizens owe themselves and America the duty of telegraphing or writing to their Senator to vote in favor of the Wagner-Van Nuys bill when it is presented for a vote, either this week or next, according to the program of the Senate.

Such action and co-operation with this society will arouse sufficient attention to the demands of the public and will result in the enactment of this most desirable legislation.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RACE TOLERANCE.

Columbia, S. C. State
January 16, 1938

A Diminishing Crime.

Figures on lynchings in 1937 give encouragement to the large number of Southerners who feel that the suppression of this brutal crime is one thing that the states are handling successfully. There are reported by Tuskegee institute only eight lynchings during the year just ended.

Lynching, which at one time menaced the forces of civilization in the South, is above all a crime of passion uncontrolled. At its dreadful height back in the early nineties when there were hundreds of lynchings every year, it took courage to oppose the act and the feeling behind it. Yet a portion of the press representing high ideals of public service and leadership, and a small proportion of the population representing the better element, joined in the fight against mob violence, and have never ceased to battle against it.

Public sentiment in the South today is against lynching. We dare to believe that not even the rankest demagogue would now raise his voice publicly in South Carolina in favor of it.

This does not mean that victory is complete. Here is seemingly one of those never-ending conflicts. Eight lynchings in a year are exactly eight too many. So long as the law is raped by the mob in even one case, enlightened forces of the South must continue on guard against this foe of civilization itself.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on, Sent Press

Jan. - Dec.

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RECORDS AND RESEARCH SHOW EIGHT PERSONS MET DEATH BY MOB VIOLENCE DURING 1937

TUSKEGEE.—The Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute shows that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states, and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding an officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Concord, N C Tribune
December 28, 1937

Eight Lynchings During The Year

Total for 1937 Same as for 1936, Tuskegee Institute Shows—None Occurred in North Carolina.

Eight lynchings occurred during 1937, according to information from President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, of Alabama, which keeps annual records. This is the same number as for 1936, states President Patterson; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935, and seven less than the number 15 for 1934.

Continuing his report, he says:

"All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each states are as follows: Alabama, 1,; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

Spartanburg, S C., Herald
December 28, 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS RECORDED IN YEAR

Tuskegee Institute Finds Same Number This Year As Reported Last

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27 (AP).—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the South.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Atlanta, Ga. Georgian
December 27, 1937

Eight Lynchings Listed In Southeast for 1937

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight lynchings occurred in five Southern states during 1937, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced Monday.

Three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Eight lynchings were recorded in 1936, 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
December 27, 1937

Lynching Record Is Made Public

According to information sent to the newspapers of the nation by authorities at Tuskegee Institute, of Alabama, there were 8 persons lynched during the year 1937.

This is the same number as were lynched in 1936, 12 less than the 20 lynched in 1935 and seven less than the 15 lynched in 1934.

All of those lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and 5 from officers outside jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch. One was shot to death and another was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Greenwood, Miss. Commonwealth
December 27, 1937

LYNCHINGS NUMBERED EIGHT DURING YEAR

Officers of Law Prevented Lynchings In Fifty Six Instances, Report Shows

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) —Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the Institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings that involved five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty one in the south.

The Institute, America's largest negro college, issued its statistical report wihtout comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law" three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Two were tortured with a blowtorch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: rape 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Charleston, S C. Evening Post
December 27, 1937

Eight Lynched in U. S. During 1937

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The 1936 toll also was eight.

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Offenses charged againts the victims were listed as: Rape 1, crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer 2.

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
December 27, 1937

Lynchings In 1937

Record For Year Compiled by Tuskegee Institute

Tuskegee, Dec. 27.—According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

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Institute Reports '37 Lynch Record

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 27—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes died by lynching at the hands of Southern mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of Records and Research reported today. The 1936 death toll was identical.

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The death toll by states: Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia, 1.

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"Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Attack, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer, two."

TUSKEGEE CORRECTS LYNCHING TOTAL

WASHINGTON.—De— Senators from every state received this week a letter from Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, correcting the erroneous report which had been sent out over his name, without his knowledge, that there had been only 8 lynchings in 1937. Mr. Work told the senators that Tuskegee records showed 8 lynchings. The [illegible] which someone credited to Mr. Work was used by senators as an argument against enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 27. 1937

EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED IN '37

Nation's Total Is Same As Last Year, Well Under 1934 And 1935

Eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937, the same number as in 1936, it was reported today by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute.

The eight lynchings of 1937 show a reduction of 12 from the 1935 total and are seven less than the number recorded in 1934.

"All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers o the law outside of jails," the report stated. The report was signed by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president o Tuskegee Institute.

"Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two, and Tennessee, one.

"There were 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of

EIGHT LYNCHINGS OCCUR IN SOUTH

In 56 Instances, Officers Of Law Prevented Violence At Hands Of Mobs

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of southern mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of Records and Research reported today. The 1936 death toll was identical.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings that would have involved five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and 51 in the South.

The institute, America's largest negro college, issued its statistical report without comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Two were tortured with a blow torch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

The death toll by states: Florida, 3; Mississppi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama. 1: Georgia. 1.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
December 28, 1937

LYNCHINGS OF 1937 TOTALED 8 NEGROES

Victims of Mobs Equal Last Year—Tri-States Blamed With 1 Each.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27 (AP).—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

In fifty-six instances, the institute reported, officers prevented lynchings that would have involved five white men and seventy-two Negroes. Five such instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The eight 1936 and 1937 lynchings compared with twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside jails. Two were tortured with a blowtorch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
December 28, 1937

Institute Reports '37 Lynch Record

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 27—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes died by lynching at the hands of Southern mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of Records and Research reported today. The 1936 death toll was identical.

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Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: rape, 1, crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder 4; wounding of officer 2.

The death toll by states: Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1: Georgia, 1.

Hattiesburg, Miss. American
December 27. 1937

EIGHT VICTIMS OF LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings that involved five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the South.

The institute, America's largest negro college, issued its statistical report without comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Two were tortured with a blowtorch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
December 27, 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of southern mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of Records and Research reported today. The 1936 death toll was identical.

CHICAGO ILL TIMES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

LYNCHINGS

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 fewer than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 fewer than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

CHICAGO ILL HERALD & EXAM
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Eight Lynchings Reported in 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 total also was eight. Deaths by states this year: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

Athens, Tenn., Post Athenian
December 27. 1937

RECORDS SHOW 8 WERE LYNCHED IN SOUTH DURING '37

Records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute show that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3, Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Jan. — Dec.

5821

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press

Eight Persons Are Lynched During Year 1937

Managing Editor,
Scott Newspaper Syndicate

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and another was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; and wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; and Tennessee 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson
President.

Lynching Record For 1937 Same As 1936

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
December 27, 1937

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number for 1935, and seven less than the number for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow-torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Figures on Lynching

According to figures released this week by Tuskegee Institute, eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched in 1937. This was the same number murdered by rope, fagot or bullets in 1936. According to the Southern "statesmen" who sit in Congress this shows improvement—especially since four or five times eight were lynched a few years back. Meanwhile Senator Dixie Graves from the great State of Alabama is the nation's leading apologist for the theory that the South is taking

of lynching in its own peculiar way.

And this is correct, for seemingly everything the South does is peculiar, to say the least. Fact is, lynchings decreased although there was none in 1937 over 1936, in proportion to the amount of publicity given to the lynching problem. Whenever anti-lynching bills have been introduced in Congress, the heinous crime diminishes. Whenever there is a lull in the amount of publicity given to lynching, the number of mob murders increases. In truth, the South's peculiar way of taking care of the lynching problem is to lie low as long as the white heat of publicity is on it and then to go out and commit bigger crimes against humanity when publicity stops. This has always been the case and probably will remain so.

Therefore, when the Gavagan-Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching bill comes up in Congress this or next week, it behooves every sensible Senator to vote for it. The bill is now number one on the Senate's calendar, since it has disposed of the farming measure. We believe the Senate could do nothing that would make up for its twelve-month period of "do nothingness" but to pass the anti-lynching bill.

GIVE EIGHT AS LYNCH FIGURE

Tuskegee, Ala., December 30.—Barring any "holiday" lynchings that may occur during the current week, the official lynch disgrace figure for 1937 is 8, a statement over the signature of F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, states.

The figure, according to the statement, is the same as that for 1936, and 12 less than the number for 1935. All of the persons lynched, it says, were taken from the custody of alleged officials of the law. Three were removed from jails; five from officers outside of jails.

Two of the eight victims were tortured to death with blow torches before their bodies were finally consumed by flames. All of the victims were Negroes. The offenses against them were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding an officer, 2. The states in which the lynchings occurred were Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Officers prevented an additional 56 lynchings, 51 of them in Southern states and 5 in the North. A total of 77 were saved from mobs in all instances; of this number 5 were white. Two women were among the near-victims.

The Tuskegee figures are recognized as official for those cases technically categorized as lynchings; it does not include the large number of instances, however, where conditions such as the size of the mobs or the manner in which the victims were murdered do not place the lynchings in the technical category.

8 LYNCHINGS DURING 1937; 56 PREVENTED

Tuskegee Records Show Same Total as for 1936

TUSKEGEE. —(ANP)— Eight persons, the same total as for 1936, were lynched in America this year, according to records compiled by the department of records and research at Tuskegee and released this week by Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president. The figure is 12 less than the number 20 lynched in 1935 and seven fewer than 1934's total of 15.

All of the eight victims were Negroes and all were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside the jails. The most brutal of them all was the double lynching at Duck Hill, Miss., when the victims were first tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other burned to death.

Despite the statements of many Southern politicians who defend lynchings as protection for white womanhood in Dixie, only one of the eight was accused of rape. Of the remaining seven, one was charged with a crime against nature and robbery, four with murder, and two with wounding officers of the law.

Florida Leads

Florida led the parade of the states in which lynchings occurred with a toll of three lives taken in this fashion. Mississippi contributed two and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee had one each.

Officers prevented mob outrages in 56 instances, the records show, with five of these in Northern states and the remaining 51 in the South. In 51 of these cases, prisoners were removed for safekeeping, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. Armed force was used to repel mobs in the other five instances. Through this action, the lives of 77 persons representing 5 white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were spared from mob violence.

LYNCHINGS FOR 1937

The records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute show that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 10 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Flordia 1; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON. President

Same Record as '36

LAW PREVENTED FIFTY-SIX FROM BEING MURDERED

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, Dec. 31—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number, eight, as for 1936; twelve less than the number, twenty, for 1935, and seven less than the number, fifteen, for 1934.

All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and fifty-one in southern states. In fifty-one instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-seven persons, five white men and seventy-two Negroes, two women and seventy men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1. This official report was released by F. D. Patterson, president.

REPORT SHOWS 8 LYNCHINGS FOR OLD YEAR

But What About All The Other Killings In The Southland?

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(Special)—Florida took the lead in lynchings during the year 1937, a report from the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute showed this week.

While the actual number on record shows a total of eight, at least three times that many met death at the hands of mobs composed of the "very best white citizens."

The total number of lynchings for the year, according to the Institute is eight. This number is the same as that for 1936; 12 less than the number of 20 in 1935, and seven less than the number of 15 in 1934.

Scores of Others Lynched

These figures do not in any way represent the total number of lynchings which have occured in outlying towns below the Mason and Dixon line where whites take the law in their own hands, slay them and dispose of the bodies as they see fit.

Mississippi stands out for the most gruesome lynching of all time. Two men were tortured with blow torches and their bodies riddled with bullets.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. On the other hand, all of lynch victims were in the hands of the officers when turned over to the killers.

Bill May Halt Lynchings

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number of each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

With the anti-lynch bill still up for passage, it is the hope of Race members that this evil will be stamped out.

By F. D. PATTERSON,
President of Tuskegee Institute

I SEND you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find, according to the records compiled in the Department on Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935 and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

8 Lynchings Recorded In 1937 According To Tuskegee Inst. Report

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, on Monday gave out a report of the Institute's Department of Records and Research on the number of lynchings during 1937. In releasing the figures, Dr. Patterson said.

"I send you the following information concerning lynching for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number, 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch. Then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the wouldbe lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of the mobs.

"Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number of each state are as follows:: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee 1."

Florida Leads Lynch League

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Eight persons, all colored, were lynched in 1937, the same as for 1936, according to records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research and released on Thursday by President F. D. Patterson.

The States and number of offenses follow: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, 1 each. Officers saved seventy-five persons, five white men also two colored women from death at the hands of mobs.

The offenses charged to those murdered were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, murder, 4, and wounder officer of the law, 2.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
December 28, 1937

The Tragedies of Lynching

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number (eight) as for 1936, 12 less than the number 20 for 1935 and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee, 1,

F. D. PATTERSON,
President,
Tuskegee Institute.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
December 28, 1937

EIGHT NEGROES LOST LIVES IN LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the South.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offence charged against the victims were listed as: rape 1, crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
December 28, 1937

8 Negroes Reported Lynched During 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(A.P.) Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The 1937 death toll by states: Florida three; Mississippi two; Tennessee one; Alabama one; Georgia one.

In 56 instances, the institute deported, officers prevented lynchings that would involve five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Of the 1937 lynchings three were removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as rape one; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, two.

Jan. - Dec.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

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ATLANTA GA GEORGIAN
SUNDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

Eight Lynchings Listed In Southeast for 1937

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight lynchings occurred in five Southern states during 1937, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced Monday.

Three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Eight lynchings were recorded in 1936, 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

SPARTANBURG S C HERALD
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Lynchings in 1937

There were eight lynchings in the United States in 1937, according to the report of the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. Last year also had eight lynchings to its discredit. Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia are the states in which the lynchings of 1937 took place, Florida leading with three, and Mississippi second with two. South Carolina has a clean slate this year.

The report says that officers of the law prevented 56 lynchings this year, five of the cases occurring in northern states and 51 in the South. Comparison of 1937 and 1936 with the two previous years shows that in 1934 and 1935 lynchings were 15 and 20 respectively.

If the congressmen who seem determined to enact a federal anti-lynching bill would carefully analyze the statistics of recent years they would see that the South has made great progress in its effort to prevent lynching. It has done much better than other parts of the country in the prevention of kidnaping, racketeering and gang murders, despite the penalties provided to punish and prevent such crimes.

Sentiment in the South is overwhelming against lynching, and all agencies are endeavoring to stop the crime by impressing upon the people the fact that lynchings are not a cure for the offenses at which they aim and that the taking of law enforcement out of the hands of the courts is injurious to society. The South will cure itself of this disease if permitted to do so without interference and meddling by other sections of the country.

GREENWOOD S C INDEX JOUR
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

Eight Lynchings In '37, President Of Tuskegee Institute Reports

President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute has issued the following press release:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death an dthe other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

GREENVILLE S C NEWS
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

EVIDENCE IS USELESSNESS

America's lynching record for 1937, according to the Tuskegee Institute, is no worse—and no better—than for 1936; but the number of eight persons lynched in both these years is considerably smaller than in either 1935 or 1934.

Of special interest in this report, however, is the showing that there were 56 instances during the year in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of these cases the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken; in five instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers.

Here appears incontrovertible evidence of the sincere and aggressive determination of officers of the law, in the South and elsewhere, to protect their prisoners from any threats of mob violence and to prevent lynchings.

It is further evidence, to our mind, of the uselessness and complete undesirability of the pending federal "anti-lynching" law, one of whose chief provisions is that of prosecution in federal courts of officers from whose custody prisoners are seized and lynched. Does this record not indicate very clearly that there is no sound excuse for the adoption of such a federal policy?

ANDERSON S C MAIL
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

EIGHT LYNCHED IN YEAR JUST ENDING

Tuskegee Institute Reports All Victims Negroes—Decrease Shown.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: rape 1, crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officers, 2.

SPARTANBURG S C JOUR & SPARTAN
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

EIGHT LYNCHED DURING YEAR; NONE IN S. C.

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27 (AP).—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

NEW YORK N Y HERALD TRIBUNE
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

1937 Lynching Toll Is 8, All Taken From Officers

Police Saved 77 Persons From Mobs, Five in North

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched during 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama reported yesday. This compared with eight in 1936, twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

"All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law," the report stated. "Three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

"There were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in the Northern states and fifty-one in Southern states. A total of seventy-seven persons, five white men and seventy-two Negroes, two women and seventy men, thus were saved from death at the hands of mobs. The states in which lynchings occurred were: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two, and Tennessee one."

RALEIGH N C TIMES
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

Eight Persons Lynched In 1937

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research reported.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

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RALEIGH N C NEWS & OBSERVER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

EIGHT NEGROES LOST LIVES IN LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

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The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

56 Lynchings Were Prevented in 1937

Eight Were Carried Out in Five Southern States, Tuskegee Reports

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The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

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In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these instances occurred in Northern states ad 51 in the South.

NEW YORK N Y SUCH & AMERICAN
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

8 Negroes Lynched In U. S. During 1937

Tuskegee Institute, the Alabama hall of learning for colored youth of both sexes, has made public statistics listing eight lynchings for 1937 and 56 instances in which officers prevented mob action. Those lynched were all colored.

Mob Victims In 1937

Of the eight persons, all Negroes, reported by the Tuskegee Institute to have been lynched in 1937, it is noteworthy that two of them were accused of wounding officers, while four were charged with murder. That is, out of eight mob victims six were accused of offenses that could have been, and doubtless would have been, dealt with according to law, thus leaving no excuse for the mobs that acted as courts and executioners, too.

The same number of lynchings took place in 1936, as compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934. It would be interesting to learn what factors caused the sudden drop from 20 to eight within a year and what influence, if any, could be ascribed to the increase in prosperity, with a consequent lessening in racial competition and hence of racial antagonism.

It is a welcome fact that during 1937 North Carolina's record was clear of lynchings. Florida had the most with three, and Mississippi followed with two. All the recorded lynchings took place in the Southeastern States. Why were there none in the Southwest? Why were there more lynchings in Florida, which has a smaller Negro population and a larger population of immigrant non-Southerners than Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas or Virginia?

Correct answers to these questions, if associated with a factual study of causes and effects, might do more to wipe out mob outbreaks that any number of Federal anti-lynch statutes. Certainly they would make possible action based upon facts and not merely upon emotions. Lynching as a crime against civilization deserves such realistic consideration and action shaped upon it.

NORFOLK VIRGINIAN-PILOT
THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1937

THE LYNCHING SPIRIT

Each year the Tuskegee Institute keeps a record of the lynchings and in its report for 1937, which was recently made, it is shown that there were eight persons lynched in this country, all of whom were Negroes.

This record shows a marked decline from a few years ago, although the number this year is the same as that of 1936. The sentiment that has been aroused against such mob rule has had the effect of changing the situation, although it has not put a stop to such savagery. While there was the time when Georgia stood at the head of the list of states where lynchings had occurred, there has been but one such crime in that state this year. Public sentiment has risen to its responsibility in endeavoring to wipe out such a practice and it has shed an influence which has produced a greater respect for the law. Also the authorities have come nearer meeting the requirements of their office.

What the reaction within the southern states has been to the disgrace heaped upon them by the lawless mobs is indicated to a degree by the figures which show that while there were only eight lynchings there were 56 other cases where lynchings had been threatened and credit is given to the officers of the law for preventing them. That reflects not only that the authorities have been measuring up to their responsibilities but that they have been getting public backing and prodding in that action.

It has been freely claimed that lynchings would disappear if there were a more determined effort to uphold the law, and that mob rule was due in most instances to the failure of the citizenry to insist upon proper and prompt administration of the law.

Opinions have differed as to whether the lynching problem should be left to the states or brought under federal jurisdiction. Only the laxity of certain states in dealing with it, a laxity which in some instances came close to encouragement, has lent support to the effort for a federal law, under which counties and the authorities where lynchings occur would be subject to penalties. Opponents of such a law maintain that it is not a matter in which the government should interfere, that the states can and will deal with the problem, and it is likely that the report of only eight lynchings during the year will be advanced as evidence that the crime is gradually being wiped out.

There isn't any question but what the states can, if they will, put an end to lynchings, but the unfortunate part is that there are so many instances where the will seems to be lacking. However, in the 64 instances where the lynching spirit was displayed prevention by the authorities was successful in all but eight. That the threat of federal legislation has had its good effect is entirely possible.

LEAVENWORTH, KS. TIMES
DEC. 29, 1937 13

The Tuskegee Institute Report.

Tuskegee Institute, of Tuskegee Alabama, the state supported Industrial school for Negroes, has just made public the findings concerning lynchings which have occurred in the United States during the past year. In doing so the school has rendered a distinct service at this time when the Anti-Lynching bill is so soon again to occupy the attention of the United States Senate. Tuskegee has done more practical good for the Negroes of this country than can be estimated; and has probably done more than any agency in the nation to lessen the seriousness of the race problem. The report which it is making public is fair, impartial and strictly factual. Following is what it has to say as quoted directly from a letter received by this department from the school's president, Dr. F. D. Patterson:

I sent you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which offices of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guard augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

The above would indicate that state laws are proving effective in the protection of prisoners from mob violence wherever the authorities have the courage and backbone to stand out against threats of bodily harm to themselves in the discharge of their sworn duty. It gives ammunition to those who oppose the anti-lynch bill on the ground that such a law would not be as much of a guarantee of the safety of a prisoner as are existing state laws and that it would tend to break down state authority and give the federal government the right to come into a community, not to save lives but after lynching had occurred, to punish members of mobs and responsible officials, and act as a local police force.

Yielding up state rights to the federal government on this or in any other point is dangerous business. Once the government at Washington gets its foot across the threshold of a state it is very apt to push its way clear inside the boundries and usurp other rights not intended that it should have.

The abomination of lynchings can best be outlawed in America not by passing the controversial bill but through the strengthening of existing state laws, the arousing of public opinion, and by the sure punishment both of officers who violate their oaths to protect their prisoners at all costs, and of known

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Greenwood, S. C. Index Journal
December 27, 1937

Eight Lynchings In '37, President Of Tuskegee Institute Reports

President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute has issued the following press release:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death an dthe other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
December 28, 1937

Lynchings in 1937

There were eight lynchings in the United States in 1937, according to the report of the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute. Last year also had eight lynchings to its discredit. Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia are the states in which the lynchings of 1937 took place, Florida leading with three, and Mississippi second with two. South Carolina has a clean slate this year.

The report says that officers of the law prevented 56 lynchings this year, five of the cases occurring in northern states and 51 in the south. Comparison of 1937 and 1936 with the two previous years shows that in 1934 and 1935 lynchings were 15 and 20 respectively.

If the congressmen who seem determined to enact a federal anti-lynching bill would carefully analyze the statistics of recent years they would see that the South has made great progress in its effort to prevent lynching. It has done much better than other parts of the country in the prevention of kidnaping, racketeering and gang murders, despite the penalties provided to punish and prevent such crimes.

Sentiment in the South is overwhelming against lynching, and all agencies are endeavoring to stop the crime by impressing upon the people the fact that lynchings are not a cure for the offenses at which they aim and that the taking of law enforcement out of the hands of the courts is injurious to society. The South will cure itself of this disease if permitted to do so without interference and meddling by other sections of the country.

LYNCHINGS IN 1937

This year, as last, there were eight lynchings in the United States, all of which took place in Southern states. Fifty-six attempted lynchings were prevented by officers of the law in 1937, while in 1936 69 attempts were frustrated. In other words, while there were the same number of lynchings in 1937 as in 1936 there were fewer attempted lynchings this year than last. Thus some improvement in the last 12 months can be noted.

Eight is the smallest number of lynchings ever reported in one year in this country. In 1932 also there were eight lynchings, while in the years before that the number sometimes ran 20, 30, 40, and even as high in 1892 as 231. The figures show incontestably that improvement is being made, though improvement is not being made so rapidly as is possible.

In Alabama there were no lynchings in 1935 or in 1936, but this year there did occur one horrible mob murder to mar the State's record.

Figures for the last few years throw interesting light upon the progress that is gradually being made to stamp out this crime against law and order. In 1920 there were 60 lynchings in this country; there were 62 in 1921; 57 in 1922; 33 in 1923; 16 in 1924; 17 in 1925; 30 in 1926; 16 in 1927; 11 in 1928; 10 in 1929; 21 in 1930; 13 in 1931; 8 in 1932; 28 in 1933; 15 in 1934; 20 in 1935; 8 in 1936, and 8 in 1937.

The decline has, to be sure, not been so sturdy as it should have been, but it has nevertheless been shown that the people of this country, and especially of this section, are determined to stamp out lynching completely. How fine it would be if we could go through 1938 without a single mob murder!

Wilmington, N. C. News
December 28, 1937

The Lynching Report

That lynching is not on the increase in the south is shown by the annual report of the research department of Tuskegee Institute.

There were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
December 29, 1937

LEAVE IT TO THE SOUTH

When Congress convenes after the holidays, it will find itself faced, among other problems, with the perennial anti-lynching bill.

This measure will be aggressively pushed by its adherents and just as vigorously resisted by its opponents.

The adherents, taken by and large, hail from the Northern states where the Negro vote has become a decisive factor in determining the outcome of elections and where agitation for a Federal anti-lynching bill has assumed a sharp political aspect.

The opponents, generally speaking, come from the South where clear and objective thinking is not always possible when any issue with racial associations is raised.

In all the stormy debate that will follow inevitably harsh things will be said and arguments, more political than patriotic, will be employed.

The pity is that the true issue can not be lifted out of that highly artificial atmosphere and viewed in its true light.

For the issue among tolerant and thoughtful people is quite simple. It boils down to this: Is lynching sufficiently prevalent to justify the exercise by the Federal government of police power of doubtful efficacy and of questionable constitutional propriety? Has the South failed so lamentably in coping with the problem that the Federal government must intervene?

Tuskegee Institute has just released figures that shed much light on the problem. These figures disclose that during the

present year which closes Thursday eight persons have been lynched.

Eight lynchings are bad. One lynching is a monstrous thing which no friend of justice or of democracy can defend or condone. But what other crime, Federal or state, is so infrequently perpetrated?

These figures take on their true significance, however, when it is recalled that in 1897, 158 persons were lynched in a United States that had much less population than today.

The conclusion is inescapable: the South has made steady and gratifying headway in curing the lynch law evil. In the cold language of statistics, it has reduced the crime to a bare five per cent of its frequency forty years ago. Of what other crime can this be said? Certainly not of gangster murders or of kidnapings.

Lynchings have been decreased because the enlightened and aroused conscience of the South addressed itself resolutely and intelligently to the problem. The statistics gathered by Tuskegee Institute list 51 instances in which lynchings were prevented during 1937 by the alertness, courage and high conception of duty of Southern officers. Are the 8 failures to be remembered while the 51 successes are forgotten?

A Congress looking for new worlds of regulation to invade would do well to study these figures in all sobriety and fairness. Such a study will, we believe, satisfy reasonable lawmakers that they should leave the problem with the South where it belongs and not endanger what has been won by introducing a new governmental factor into the situation.

If the South had refused or failed to appreciate the problem, there would be reason for such a law. But the South is struggling with the evil and deserves encouragement rather than the rebuke which the enactment of a federal statue might conceivably be regarded as implying.

Tuskegee Institute Makes Report On Lynchings

The following is a letter received from President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama in regard to the lynching situation of 1937 in America.

Dear sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the law's hands; 3 were taken from jails; and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states, and fifty-one in the southern states. In 51 of the instances the unfortunate prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were thus saved from death at the hands Negroes, The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each of the states are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; and Tennesse, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D PATTERSON, President

Lynching Record For 1937

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.,
Dec. 23, 1937

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937 I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi 2; Tennessee, 1.

F. D Patterson, President.

NORFOLK VA PILOT
SUNDAY JANUARY 9 193[illegible]

Last Year's Lynching Record

Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reports eight lynchings in 1937 and thereby writes the year down as equal to the best in this respect the country has ever known. In only one other year, 1932, has the number dropped as low as eight. In only one other instance, 1936, was it as low as nine, and for that matter there has been only one year in which the figure stopped at ten.

It is necessary to go a step further. The last two years—1936 with nine lynchings and 1937 with eight—constitute the best two-year record of all time. On the previous occasion when the number dropped to eight, which was in 1932, the preceding year had witnessed 13 lynchings and the succeeding year was to shoot up to the high total of 28. For 24 months, therefore, the South has had, on any comparative basis, an excellent record.

But at that point one has to shut down on the satisfaction. Eight lynchings are exactly eight more than a nation pretending to civilization can look upon with complacency. Moreover, although the past two years have been better, relatively speaking, there is little assurance that the coming year will maintain this improvement. The South had only 21 lynchings in the 24-month period of 1928 and 1929, yet the very next year of 1930 the number shot up to 21 for the single 12 months. The South had only eight lynchings in 1932, yet had 28 in 1933. How can anyone guess what will happen in 1938?

Furthermore, the eight lynchings of 1937 are in other respects peculiarly inexcusable. In only one of them, for instance, was rape charged against the victim. Four of them resulted from murder. Two of them resulted from wounding an officer of the law. It is quite plain, as it has been for many years, that the old theory of protecting Southern womanhood is fetish. Lynchings follow killings or fights and attempted killings more than any other crime. In many instances, it would seem probable, the regular processes of the law would not find cold-blooded, deliberate and premeditated murder at the heart of the alleged offense. More probably it would be second-degree murder or some lesser crime. Sometimes it would find no crime at all.

Finally, the 1937 record is especially vicious in one damning circumstance. Every man who was lynched during the year was taken by a mob from an officer or officers of the law. In no single instance, therefore, was there any real likelihood that the accused would escape the judgment of the law; and in every instance the officer or officers of the law failed to provide that protection which our whole system of law presupposes.

A man under arrest is a man whom the State has taken in charge, to deal with as the law shall determine but to care for and guard until the law has made its decision. Eight times during the year that protection failed—and men were shot and tortured with blow torches and burned to death. That is the failure that has driven many intelligent men and women the country over to the conclusion that something else not now present is needed to overcome the failure of officers to perform their manifest duty.

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MANSFIELD OHIO NEWS JOUR
FRIDAY DECEMBER 31 1937

Lynching Is On the Decline.

A GRATIFYING commentary on the progress of civilization in the United States is found in the few lynchings that occur in a year, as compared with the period preceding 1900 when the lynchings for a single year quite consistently ran above one hundred and in 1892 reached the black record of 231.

Figures gathered by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, show a total of 8 lynchings in 1937—exactly the same as in 1936.

Except for an occasional reversion, the past 37 years have been marked by a consistent decline in the number of lynchings. It is interesting to note that all eight of the 1937 lynchings were in southern states, the record being Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

From this showing it would appear that even those states in which lynching was resorted to with considerable frequency in earlier years have established law and order to the extent of abolishing this manifestation of barbarity.

JACKSON, MISS. CLARION
JAN. 3, 1938 17

Figures Give Complete Answer to Lynching Critics

A complete answer to agitation for federal anti-lynching legislation is to be found in the annual report of Tuskegee Institute's research and records department on lynchings in the United States.

Tuskegee is the famous college for negroes in Alabama and is known throughout the country as the greatest institute in this country devoted exclusively to education of the negro.

F. D. Patterson, president of the college and head of the records and research department, has just compiled and published his annual report on lynchings. The report covers the year 1937.

Dr. Patterson's report reveals a very definite trend toward the complete abolition of the lynching evil in the South, even without direct legislation upon the subject either by the states or by the federal government. It constitutes an irrefutable argument against the vicious anti-lynching legislation which is still pending in the congress.

Dr. Patterson's figures show that eight lynchings occurred in the United States during the past year. They were divided among five southern states, as follows: Florida 3; Georgia 1; Alabama 1; Tennessee 1, and Mississippi 2.

The number of persons lynched in 1937 is the same as the number which died at the hands of mobs in 1936. It is twelve less than the number lynched in 1935 and seven less than the lynchings which occurred in 1934.

All of the persons lynched in 1937 were taken from the custody of officers. Three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails.

Thus, according to Dr. Patterson's figures, it appears that lynching is on the decline in the South, notwithstanding the protestations of northern agitators who are seeking to fasten a vicious anti-lynching law upon the southern states.

But there is more to Dr. Patterson's illuminating report than the mere statistics of lynchings which occurred last year.

For example, he tells us that a total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, were saved from mob violence by officers of the law. Two of the 72 negroes were women.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," says Dr. Patterson's report. "Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed, guards were augmented or other precautions were taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers."

It can hardly be said with confidence that Dr. Patterson has "doctored" his figures; he could have no purpose in so doing and we are bound to accept them as authentic and accurate.

And Dr. Patterson's figures show, conclusively, that there is no need for a federal anti-lynching law, even if such a law could be enforced to the extent necessary to make it an effective curb on lynchings.

The vigilance of officers of the law during the past year has contributed more to the eradication of the "lynching evil" than all the laws congress may enact during the next century.

But whenever the federal government lays upon those officers a civil liability, such as is proposed in the pending Wagner-Van Nuys anti-lynching bill, that vigilance will be relaxed and we may then expect an increase, rather than a decline, in the number of lynchings each year.

The South will solve this problem in the proper way, if let alone.

Sanford, N. C., Herald
December 31, 1937

WHAT ABOUT LYNCHING?

NORTH Carolina has been fortunate this year in that it has been free of lynchings, shown since reconstruction to be one of the most inhumane and degrading practices ever thrust upon the south. There were eight lynchings throughout this year, the same number as in 1936. The total for each of the past two years is decidedly less than that of 1935, when 20 persons were lynched by mobs, and in 1934 when 15 met similar fates.

During this year, in a state usually regarded as more northern than southern, three persons were lynched. Florida, a conglomerate state composed principally of residents moved in from other states outside the boundaries of the Mason and Dixon line, found its citizenry hot-headed and morbid in taking the lives of three men. Two were lynched in Mississippi. Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee claimed one each.

According to a report from Tuskegee Institute, all of the eight persons lynched during the year were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers outside jails. Even though peace officers failed to prevent eight lynchings, they did dispel them in 56 instances. Five were in northern states, but 51 in the south, meaning that the lives of 77 persons were saved. Five of them were white men.

Of the eight persons lynched, according to the report, four were charged with murder; one with rape; one with crime against nature and robbery; and two with wounding an officer of the law.

The facts as presented by the report, remind that in the south there are still many hot-heads

who think lynching as a solution to all right. Time and experience must develop in us all a mutual understanding devoid of impetuous and inhumane action.

LYNCHINGS PRESENT NO EMERGENCY

NOTHING could more clearly demonstrate that the lynching evil does not present an emergency than the report of the Tuskegee Institute upon outbreaks of this nature during the year 1937.

This report shows that there were only eight lynchings in the entire country during the year now closing while there were fifty-six instances in which law enforcement officials prevented lynchings. The report says that 77 persons, 5 white and 72 negroes, were thus saved from mob violence.

The number of lynchings last year were the same as for this year, but the number is 7 less than for 1935 and 15 less than for 1934.

Thus the record of the past three years shows a heavy decrease in crimes of this nature while exhibiting a very definite determination on the part of officials to prevent such outlawry.

Under the circumstances, it is ridiculous for the issue to be pushed to the fore in Congress while so many issues of a vital and pressing nature are pending. Moreover, it is crystal clear than precedence would not be given the subject for one moment were it not for the fact that some Northern congressmen are up for reelection this year and wish to cater to the negro vote in their districts. Thus personal politics is placed ahead of national prosperity and the general well-being.

Southern representatives should continue their opposition to this game of politics with its threat of bringing back to the South another era of carpetbagism, with federal forces mixing in affairs that are purely local. They should demand that the Congress consider legislation to revive business and not legislation designed to revive the events of the reconstruction period.

ENID, OKLA., NEWS
DEC. 26, 1937 J8

THE 1937 LYNCHING RECORD

The 1937 record of lynchings, as just released by Tuskegee Institute, shows that the number of persons thus unlawfully robbed of life was eight during the last twelve months, all of them negroes, and all from southern states. One was in Alabama; three in Florida; one in Georgia; two in Mississippi; and one in Tennessee.

Rape, crimes against nature, murder, wounding law officers and robbery were the charges against the victims. In 56 instances, law officers prevented lynchings; and it must be said that in 51 of these cases, they were southern law officers, and in the other five, armed force was used by the authorities in attempting to repel the onslaughts of those who sought to take the law into their own hands.

As a matter of fact, due to the activities of officers of the law, 77 persons were saved from mob violence during the year, five of these being white men, two being negro women, and 70 negro men.

Lynch law is no law at all; and although some, and probably most of those sought by the mobs were guilty or partly so, yet the effort to kill them without benefit of either arrest, trial or conviction was wholly outside the law, and wholly against the calm, ordered system of justice required in this country by the constitution and the laws.

There are crimes the very nature of which tend to incite people to mob violence; yet too often the accused is an innocent party; and no group of men bent only on vengeance is capable in the stilly hours of the night of acting as judge upon some hapless individual who may only answer a vague description of the supposed culprit.

Eight lynch deaths in a year is not a bad record, as compared with the records of former years; yet eight is exactly eight too many. The crimes of which all the victims, and near-victims, were accused were such that severe penalty, if not the extreme penalty, would have been assessed anyway had the victims been brought to trial and properly prosecuted.

BRISTOL TENN. HERALD-COURIER
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

Eight Mob Murders.

Unless there are other lynchings today or tomorrow, this year will close with only eight such crimes having been committed. This is the same number of lynchings as for 1936, but twelve less than for 1935, when twenty persons were put to death by mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched this year, all were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails. All of the victims were Negroes, but only one was accused of rape, the crime which the mob originally presumed to punish.

There were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and fifty-one in Southern States. In fifty-one of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guard augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the mobs.

In the fifty-six instances in which mobs were frustrated the lives of seventy-seven persons were saved. Of the seventy-seven, five were white men and seventy-two were Negroes, and two were women. Had these attempted lynchings been successful, eighty-five persons would have met death at the hands of mobs this year. While there has been a decline in the number of lynchings, at least temporarily, there seems to have been little or no abatement of the mob spirit.

Of the eight lynchings this year, three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi, one in Tennessee, one in Alabama and one in Georgia. And in no instance has any member of any one of the eight mobs been brought into court for his crime. Not a single mobster has even been apprehended, so far as the law is concerned. But one suspects that many of the lynchers could have been found had the responsible authorities been anxious to find them.

The eight mob murders that have occurred this year could have been prevented just as the fifty-six attempted outrages of the kind were prevented. If adequate measures were taken to prevent lynchings there would be few if any such crimes and no demand for a Federal anti-lynching law. Or if an honest effort were made to apprehend and punish mobsters, when these precautionary measures failed to prevent lynchings, there would be no demand for a Federal anti-lynching law. As it is, there is a widespread demand for such a law, and in all probability it will be placed on the Federal statutes within the next month.

GADSDEN ALA. TIMES
DEC. 30, 1937 J6

LYNCHINGS PRESENT NO EMERGENCY

NOTHING could more clearly demonstrate that the lynching evil does not present an emergency than the report of the Tuskegee Institute upon outbreaks of this nature during the year 1937.

This report shows that there were only eight lynchings in the entire country during the year now closing while there were 56 instances in which law enforcement officials prevented lynchings. The report says that 77 persons, five white and 72 negroes, were thus saved from mob violence.

The number of lynchings last year were the same as for this year, but the number is seven less than for 1935 and 15 less than for 1934.

Thus the record of the past three years shows a heavy decrease in crimes of this nature while exhibiting a very definite determination on the part of officals to prevent such outlawery.

Under the circumstances, it is ridiculous for the issue to be pushed to the fore in Congress while so many issues of a vital and pressing nature are pending. Moreover, it is crystal clear that precedence would not be given the subject for one moment were it not for the fact that some Northern congressmen are up for reelection this year and wish to cater to the negro vote in their districts. Thus personal politics is placed ahead of national prosperity and the general well-being.

Southern representatives should continue their opposition to this game of politics with its threat of bringing back to the South another era of carpetbagism with federal forces mixing in affairs that are purely local. They should demand that the Congress consider legislation to revive business and not legislation designed to revive the events of the reconstruction period.

Lynchings-1937
Reports on, Sent Press

Jan. -Dec.

5825

EL DORADO KS TIMES
DEC. 28, 1937 14

PREVENTING LYNCHINGS

Eight negroes—no whites—were lynched in the United States in 1937. The record is compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, which shows that all of these instances in which the mob superseded the law occurred in Southern States—Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Eight persons were lynched in 1936, 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934. Thus, the record is growing brighter. But the best part of the picture was that in 56 instances—five in Northern states and 51 in Southern—officers of the law prevented lynchings. In 51 of these cases the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In five instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Thus, a total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes—two women and 70 men—were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

The lust to lynch is as strong as ever apparently—but wherever officers have the courage and the initiative to stand up to mobs it is thwarted. And that is an improvement in the public service that deserves warm commendation.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
JANUARY 3, 1938

Lynching Record

THE LYNCHING RECORD for 1937, as compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, is still unpleasant, but it has some bright accompaniments. The number, 8, was the same as in 1936, but 12 less than the 20 of 1935 and 7 less than the 15 of 1934. All the victims were Negroes—one in Alabama, three in Florida, one in Georgia, two in Mississippi and one in Tennessee. All were taken by mobs from the hands of the law.

On the other side there were 56 instances involving 77 persons in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, in most cases by prudent precautions, but in five cases by the use of armed force to repel the mobs. Of these instances 51 were in Southern States and 5 in Northern. This seems significant that in Southern States during the year officers of the law on 51 occasions prevented threatened lynchings as against 8 lynchings carried out in spite of them.

There is no doubt that lynching is gradually dying out. Even in those States that have been the worst offenders sentiment against it is growing and must eventually reach a pitch which will compel State governments to take action.

The unfortunate part of the Federal anti-lynching bill is that it is a sham, for political consumption, and would not do what it is advertised to do. Besides, the people of the South have objections to it rather firmly grounded in considerations of Federal interference in State affairs that should appeal likewise to Northerners, if they would stop to think it over.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK, DEMOCRAT
DEC. 30, 1937 16

LYNCHINGS IN 1937.

The special session of Congress adjourned without adopting the anti-lynching bill—thanks to the filibustering of Southern Senators. It adjourned before the Tuskegee Institute of public records and research made its report.

Here are the records as submitted by the institute:

In 1937 there were eight lynchings. The 1936 total was the same. In 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings that would have involved five white men and 72 negroes. The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935, and 15 in 1934.

While the Tuskegee figures are not needed to add to the evidence that the anti-lynching bill was one of the most vicious aimed at the South since Reconstruction days, we do call attention to the fact that the statement that in 56 instances lynchings were prevented by officers of the law.

The "excuse" for the law is that officers fail to protect men accused of crimes and because of that dereliction of duty, the county in which it happened should be fined.

Could any more convincing evidence be produced? The Tuskegee report should be sufficient to end the argument in Congress when the anti-lynching bill bobs up again.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
December 30, 1937

We Hold Our Own

Is Judge Lynch losing ground in the South? The statistics for 1937, compiled by Tuskegee Institute, afford little material for argument on either side. It lists eight lynchings in this area for the year and this number is exactly the same as that for 1936.

But there is reason for satisfaction in the knowledge that we held our own during a year noted for intense social excitement. In the South the mob spirit asserted itself on a number of occasions which did not produce a lynching bee, thanks to the vigilance of officers who had proper respect for their oaths. This is one of the most encouraging signs of the times, bespeaking as it does a growing sense of moral responsibility in law enforcement circles.

It will require many years of social education to drive the mob spirit out of the South. In the meantime officers of the law are charged with the grave responsibility of preventing every lynching they possibly can prevent. And this means a very high percentage, for a courageous sheriff or police chief with a staff of capable and well-armed deputies can place the fear of the hereafter in the heart of a hundred hoodlums.

Another weapon against the hoodlum is the criminal action at law. As yet legal investigations of lynching atrocities have been on the whole but nominal, half-hearted and unproductive affairs. Determined intent to bring the lyncher to justice has been lacking. Whether the failure of law enforcement officials to make thorough probes of these cases is due to politics or to sympathy with the mob, the result is the same. The failure herein is deplorable, since a few convictions of lynch-law mobsters would be more effective than a thousand impeachments against Judge Lynch.

Anniston, Ala. Star
January 8, 1938

Lynching Records

While the filibuster continues in the Senate to kill the anti-lynching bill, it is interesting to note the following comment on lynching records, as printed by The Baltimore Sun:

"If data on lynching compiled by Tuskegee Institute may be relied upon, there would seem to be some reason to hope that, before the bitter controversy over the issue is ended in Congress, the advocates of a federal law on the subject will not have a great deal of basis to urge such an enactment.

"Tuskegee Institute reports that there were but eight lynchings of Negroes last year, the lowest with the exception of 1932, when there were also eight, since the records have been kept. In 1892 there were 231. From 1910 to 1923 the number varied from a high of 74 to a low of 33. The highest number recently was 30 in 1926. The total for 1936 was 13 and, as has been noted, the record for 1937 was cut almost in half.

"Such disgraceful outbreaks have varied so much from year to year that it is unsafe to predict that they may not again show increase. But the decline of lynchings over a long period of time gives ground for belief that we shall not witness in the future anything approaching the amount of mob violence that prevailed 10 or 20 years ago. This evidence of betterment because of a more vigorous public opinion in the matter, aided by more aggressive enforcement of the law in the localities, shows that the states are not wholly helpless before this menace. Their efforts ought not to cease until the score is perfect."

ST PETERSBURG FLA TIMES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

EIGHT WERE LYNCHED IN U. S. DURING YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The 1937 death toll by states: Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers prevented lynchings that would involve five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald

DEC 31 1937

LYNCHINGS ARE ON THE DECREASE

Eleven years go the average number of lynchings in the United States was twenty-five, the majority of the victims being Negroes. The record for the past year, 1937, was eight, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute. All the persons lynched were Negroes, the offenses charged being rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2. All the lynched were in the hands of the law, three having been taken from jails, five from officers of the law outside of jails. The lynchings occurred in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The progress made during the last decade is an indication of what continuous effort can do in moulding sentiment against mob violence. Pride has been instilled in officers to protect offenders of the law until they can be given a fair trial. This is shown by the fact that in 1937 in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings thus saving the lives of 72 Negroes and five whites. Fifty-one of these 56 cases were in southern states where prejudice against the Negro is supposed to be greatest.

IRONTON OHIO EVE TRIBUNE
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

THE 77 OTHER CASES

Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is customarily used as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched 7 less than for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings—51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselevs.

* * * * *

President Roosevelt's advisers are hoping the Christmas holiday will put Congress in a more "giving" mood toward his legislative request.

WILKES-BARRE PA RECORD
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Mob Violence In 1937

EIGHT lynchings in 1937, the number to date, gives the year a record for mob violence on a par with that of 1936, when the number of lynchings was also eight. If that doesn't represent a change for the better, at least it shows that the gain made last year is being held. In 1935 there were 20 lynchings, and the year before there were 15. These figures are according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute.

Most encouraging of all is the fact that thwarted lynchings are far more numerous than those that occur. In 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1937, and a total of 77 persons were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Against that bright circumstance is the dark fact that all persons lynched were in the hands of the law; that three of the eight were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside the jails.

It is thus evident that even without the federal law so urgently demanded from certain quarters mob violence has been vastly discouraged and reduced to a relatively low minimum in the United States. When one reads that two of the victims this year were tortured with a blow torch, one wonders whether the cruel and wanton spirit which leads to lynchings can ever be conquered by statutes, however drastic or comprehensive. This observation detracts nothing from the fact that fidelity to the cause of preventing lynchings is thoroughly worth while, not only because of the moral issue involved, but because the continued effort has been productive of better and better results as the years have gone on.

HOUSTON, TEX. POST
DEC. 29, 1937 17

Lynching Declines

MOB violence in the United States is on the decline. The lynching scourge, which has disgraced America and particularly the South for generations, may be eliminated in the next few years through courageous law enforcement and education.

These conclusions may be drawn from the latest report of the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research which reveals that only eight lynchings, all involving negroes, occurred during 1937. The 1936 toll also was eight.

There were 20 lynchings in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

There will be little satisfaction among Americans who believe in law and order and oppose mob violence until lynching has been stamped out entirely. But as enlightened leaders working to create better understanding between races continue their good will efforts, they have every reason to be proud of progress made during the past two years.

Not so long ago, the annual lynching toll was around 50. Officers in many instances, particularly in the South, made no effort to protect negro prisoners from mobs. They literally turned their backs and handed over the prisoners for whose safety they were responsible.

The Tuskegee report indicates most gratifying progress in that respect. In 56 instances, the Institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in Northern States and 51 in the South.

Officers who prevented mob violence during the year have earned a place on the honor roll of American law enforcement. To them must go much of the credit for the low number of lynchings during the year. If officers generally continue that policy, the lynching scourge will be stamped out in a few more years.

All lynchings in 1937 occurred in Southern States. Three are charged against Florida; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; Alabama, one, and Georgia, one.

No lynchings occurred in Texas, for which all the people are very grateful. Let us hope this State will continue to occupy a place on that roll of honor.

BUFFALO N Y NEWS
THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1937

LYNCHING EVIL

In its annual report on lynching, the Tuskegee institute presents statistics that may guide the Senate in its discussion of mob violence when it takes up the anti-lynching measure on Jan. 6. According to the institute, the United States permitted eight lynchings to take place in 1937, the same number as that for the preceding year.

It is significant that all of these aggressions against law and order occurred in the South. An additional interesting item is the fact that all of the victims were Negroes. Three were lynched in Florida, two in Mississippi, one each in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. The institute reports that officers of the law prevented acts of mob violence in 56 instances this year.

Probably the passage of the Wagner anti-lynching bill by the House has stimulated Southern sheriffs to protect prisoners from mobs. For the measure provides for prosecution of officials who fail to do their full duty when mobs move to take the law into their own hands. Perhaps the agitation at Washington for anti-lynching legislation also has aroused public opinion in southern states against mob action. Even so, there still would be strong argument for passage of the Wagner bill.

SALEM OHIO NEWS
TUESDAY JANUARY 4 1938

THE 77 OTHER CASES

Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is customarily used as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched; 7 less than for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings—51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselves.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

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Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
December 29, 1937

MOB SPIRIT NATIONWIDE

According to records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, eight persons were murdered by lynching mobs this year. As to be expected, all of them occurred in southern states, those farthest south of the Mason-Dixon line No less strange every person done to death was a black man.

Furthermore, the records show that each victim was in the hands of law officers when taken out for the slaughter. Only three were in jails; the other five were snatched from men sworn to protect them. Details of their slaying are still fresh in the minds of the people.

Statistics show there were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these five were in northern states and the other fifty-one in the south. In fifty-one instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In five others, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Only one of the eight who died at the hands of the mob was charged with the unmentionable crime against a white woman.

The record is unspeakably bad. For it we have neither excuse nor apology. But the fact that so many were protected by the law from summary execution is encouraging. In 1934 the toll stood at fifteen; in 1935 twenty. No better proof is lacking than these figures that the lynching crime is on the wane. The conscience of the south has been stirred to its depths. Public sentiment is putting an end to this gory parade of violence.

This week in Newark, N. J., a white man killed a young girl in a manner which has few parallels in its diabolical cruelty and viciousness. Yesterday the wanton slayer was arraigned in court. There were shouts of "kill him" from among the spectators. A relative of the dead woman struck him a blow in open court. Had that been in any community less guarded by officers of the law, does anyone doubt what would have happened to him?

We merely mention this instance to show that the mob spirit is nationwide and rampant. Outraged citizens, inflamed by a particularly ferocious crime, lose control of their angry passions and must be restrained.

Federal laws nor federal might can do this. Public sentiment only can wipe out the stain of the mob. It will compel local authorities to do as the fifty-one in the south and the five in the north did. The crime of lynching will be abated when public sentiment, through respect for law, determines it must cease, anti-lynching law or no anti-lynching law notwithstanding.

Columbia, S. C. Record
January 3, 1938

Toward the Goal.

Only eight negroes, Tuskegee Institute reports were lynched last year—none in South Carolina.

And eight lynchings in a year, even if they are eight too many, established a record equaling that of 1932, the lowest since lynching records have been kept.

There is, of course, no guarantee that this year will not see an increase in the number of lynchings. In 1936 there were 13; in 1926 there were 30.

But there is evidence of a steady decline in the lynching frequency. In 1892 there were 231 recorded lynchings. Lynching has, therefore, declined 97 per cent in 45 years. The weight of public opinion in the Sotuh is against it. A little more courage and foresight on the part of enforcement officers, a little more education, no trafficing at all by government with even lesser manifestations of the mob spirit—the Ku Klux Klan's attack on a Florida night club is an example—and it can for all practical purposes be abolished.

Smithfield, N. C. Herald
December 31, 1937

LYNCHINGS ARE ON THE DECREASE

Eleven years go the average number of lynchings in the United States was twenty-five, the majority of the victims being Negroes. The record for the past year, 1937, was eight, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute. All the persons lynched were Negroes, the offenses charged being rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2. All the lynched were in the hands of the law, three having been taken from jails, five from officers of the law outside of jails. The lynchings occurred in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The progress made during the last decade is an indication of what continuous effort can do in moulding sentiment against mob violence. Pride has been instilled in officers to protect offenders of the law until they can be given a fair trial. This is shown by the fact that in 1937 in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings thus saving the lives of 72 Negroes and five whites. Fifty-one of these 56 cases were in southern states where prejudice against the Negro is supposed to be greatest.

Moultrie, Ga., Weekly Observer
December 31, 1937

EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED IN '37

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Titusville, Fla., Star Advocate
January 4, 1938

Florida Leads Five States In Lynching

Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, according to a recent report. Florida led the group of five states in which lynchings occured during the period. This state had 3, and Mississippi had two. Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama each had one.

Pavo, Ga., News
December 30, 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS LISTED IN SOUTHEAST FOR 1937

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—A total of eight lynchings occurred in Southern states during 1937, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced Monday.

Three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Eight lynchings were recorded in 1936, 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

SPRINGFIELD OHIO NEWS
THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1937

THE LYNCHING RECORD

The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama makes its annual report of lynching statistics. Eight persons were killed by mobs this year, all Negroes and all of them in the south. The number is the same as in 1936, 12 less than in 1935, seven less than in 1934.

From these figures alone it might be concluded that lynching is dying out of itself and that federal legislation to eradicate this crime is unnecessary, as southern congressmen, successfully blocking enaction of such a measure thus far, have contended. The error of that view is evident in the far greater number of threatened lynchings which officers of the law prevented.

There were 56 such instances, five in the north, the balance in the south. In the vast majority of these cases it was necessary to remove prisoners, strengthen their guard or take other like precautions. On five occasions armed force was necessary to turn back a mob. By one method or another courageous officials thus saved 77 persons from lynching.

But the eight murdered by mobs were likewise in the hands of the law; several were taken from jails, five from officers outside. The success of the officers who held their prisoners spite of the threats of mobs heightens the shame of these who failed. In the circumstances the common declaration of mobs that they must mete out the justice which the law neglects is also given the lie. Two of the victims were tortured with blow torches before being put to death—another indication of the savagery, far removed from any spirit of justice, which actuates a mob.

Eight lynchings and 56 others prevented show the problem, southern congressmen to the contrary notwithstanding, still pressing

JANESVILLE WIS GAZETTE
THURSDAY DECEMBER 30 1937

Lynchings Are Fewer

In its annual report, the Tuskegee Institute which over a period of years has made a report on the number of lynchings in the United States, says there were eight persons lynched in 1937 or the same number as in 1936, 12 less than in 1935 and seven less than the number in 1924. All were negroes, and all the lynchings were in the south—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee. It is peculiar that Florida had the largest number, three, and that Florida has the largest northern-born population of any of these states. The record is important because it shows that officers of the law prevented 56 lynchings, involving 72 people, five of which were in northern states and 51 in southern states. It is quite doubtful whether an anti-lynching law passed by the congress of the United States would have been able to reduce the number of lynchings to the extent now done by the pressure of public opinion.

BANGOR ME NEWS
SATURDAY JANUARY 1 1938

Lynchings in 1937

The annual report of Tuskegee Institute on lynchings puts the number in 1937 at eight, the same number as in 1936. In 1937 all those lynched were Negroes. Three of this year's lynchings occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. To be read with these figures are others which the Alabama school obtained, which show that in fifty-six instances in 1937 officers of the law prevented a lynching; on fifty-one occasions this successful intervention of the law occurred in Southern States.

On January 6 the Senate will once again take up the anti-lynching bill already passed by the House of Representatives. Some of the critics of the bill have pointed out that it provides no machinery for preventing lynchings, but it does provide heavy penalties to be applied to counties and county officers after a lynching has occurred. The Tuskegee statistics are certain to be cited frequently in the course of Senate debate. They represent the freshest information available about the extent of the evil of lynching.

STEUBENVILLE OHIO HER STAR
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

The 77 Other Cases

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE'S annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is customarily used as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched; 7 less than for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings—51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselves.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., NEWS-SENT
DEC. 30, 1937 J7

Time To Reconsider!

LET'S look at the 1937 lynching figures, released yesterday.

Florida	3
Mississippi	2
Tennessee	1
Alabama	1
Georgia	1

Many Southern Congressmen are still fighting Federal anti-lynching legislation. We don't believe that they are truly representing the sentiment of the people from their home states. We believe that the anti-lynching legislation would be passed in most of these five Southern states where lynchings occurred this year. We have little doubt that it would be passed in Tennessee.

Lynching is not condoned by the majority of the citizens in communities where they occur. An Institute of Public Opinion poll during the past year, published by The News-Sentinel, showed that sentiment over the country was overwhelmingly for anti-lynching legislation. The South, considered alone, voted for the proposed measure.

We think it is time our Congressmen reconsidered their stand on this question. Lynching must stop even if it takes Federal legislation to do it.

COLUMBUS OHIO STATE JOURNAL
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

Gratifying Record

LYNCHING statistics for 1937, as supplied by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, are highly gratifying. They show that only eight persons were dispatched by mobs, which is the same number as in 1936, a notable decrease from other days. They also disclose that in only five of the 48 states were mobs successful in their object.

But the more pleasing disclosure is that there were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. This means that a total of 77 persons were saved from unlawful deaths.

It is not of record whether or not the eight who met summary death could have been saved by prompt and effective official action. But those officials who stepped in and prevented vengeance by mobs are to be congratulated, and their action shows that people everywhere are tired of all mobs and are willing to rely on the course of law to take care of trial and punishment.

MARION (O.) STAR
MONDAY JANUARY 3 1938

The 77 Other Cases

TUSKEGEE Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is customarily used as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all Negroes, were lynched, 7 less than for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings—51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselves.

PORTSMOUTH OHIO TIMES
TUESDAY JANUARY 4 1938

THE 77 OTHER CASES

Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States, which is used customarily as a basis for discussing this problem, shows the following figures for 1937:

Eight persons, all colored were lynched; seven fewer than for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails, and the other five were taken from officers of the law. However, in 56 instances, officers of the law prevented lynchings—51 times by taking extra precautions, the other five times by using armed force to repel lynchers. A total of 77 persons were saved from mobs in this way.

When congressmen begin to talk about lynching again, as they are scheduled to do, the fact that 77 persons were saved from mob violence without federal intervention is bound to be offered as evidence that the states aren't entirely incapable of handling this matter themselves.

MANCHESTER GUARDIAN
4 JAN 1938

LYNCHINGS IN THE UNITED STATES

Eight Victims Last Year

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian

SIR,—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; twelve less than the number for 1935; and seven less than the number for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from gaols and five from officers of the law outside gaols. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offences charged were rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2. The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.—Yours, &c.,

F. D. PATTERSON, President
Tuskegee Institute.
Alabama, U.S.A.,
December 23.

COLUMBUS MISS. DISPATCH
DEC. 28, 1937 J3

56 LYNCHINGS PREVENTED

Statistics compiled and issued by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, show that in 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings in 1937.

Five were prevented in Northern States and 51 in Southern States.

These figures should be the answer to the damnable proposal for an anti-lynching law now pending in Congress.

The South did more to prevent lynchings than all of the north put together.

In the North they simply let the racketeers, murderers, and gangsters slay their victims.

Under the proposed anti-lynching law, however, gangsters, racketeers and strikers would be exempt from its provisions.

Jan. – Dec.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

5827

5827

Sanford, Fla. Herald
December 29, 1937

Lynching In 1937

Though some congressmen are considerably agitated of late over lynching conditions in the South and are striving with might and main to enact legislation which would severely penalize the taxpayers in any community in which a lynching occurs, a report just received from the president of Tuskegee Institute shows that the South is rapidly eliminating the lynching evil without any help from the federal government whatever.

During the year just coming to a close, there have been eight lynchings in the United States, all of them in the South. This compares with hundreds lynched annually twenty-five or thirty years ago. It also compares with 20 lynchings in 1935, and 15 in 1934.. Of the eight persons lynched this year, all were negroes. One was charged with rape; one with a crime against nature and robbery; four with murder; two with wounding an officer of the law.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings," the Tuskegee report says. "Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs."

Be it said to the shame of Florida that three out of these eight lynchings occurred in this state. One occurred in Alabama, one in Georgia, two in Mississippi, and one in Tennessee. Thus Florida has the worst lynching record of any state in the union for this year. It has not always been so. In fact throughout the years Florida has ranked high among southern states which have sought to eliminate this evil.

No doubt the effort will continue and as time goes on lynching in the South will become a matter of history.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
December 30, 1937

LYNCHINGS PRESENT NO EMERGENCY

NOTHING could more clearly demonstrate that the lynching evil does not present an emergency than the report of the Tuskegee Institute upon outbreaks of this nature during the year 1937.

This report shows that there were only eight lynchings in the entire country during the year now closing while there were 56 instances in which law enforcement officials prevented lynchings. The report says that 77 persons, five white and 72 negroes, were thus saved from mob violence.

The number of lynchings last year were the same as for this year, but the number is seven less than for 1935 and 15 less than for 1934.

Thus the record of the past three years shows a heavy decrease in crimes of this nature while exhibiting a very definite determination on the part of officals to prevent such outlawery.

Under the circumstances, it is ridiculous for the issue to be pushed to the fore in Congress while so many issues of a vital and pressing nature are pending. Moreover, it is crystal clear that precedence would not be given the subject for one moment were it not for the fact that some Northern congressmen are up for reelection this year and wish to cater to the negro vote in their districts. Thus personal politics is placed ahead of national prosperity and the general well-being.

Southern representatives should continue their opposition to this game of politics with its threat of bringing back to the South another era of carpetbagism with federal forces mixing in affairs that are purely local. They should demand that the Congress consider legislation to revive business and not legislation designed to revive the events of the reconstruction period.

Rome Ga. News-Tribune
December 30, 1937

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Southern representatives should continue their opposition to this game of politics with its threat of bringing back to the South another era of carpetbagism, with federal forces

Florida Is Leader In Mob Parade

1-31-38

Mississippi Has Two. All Of The Victims Of 1937 Slaying Were Colored Persons.

Dr. Patterson's Letter.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.
December 23, 1937.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other as burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occured and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson,
President.

EIGHT PERSONS WERE LYNCHED DURING 1937

According To Records Of Research Department Of Tuskegee Institute

FLORIDA HEADS LIST OF LYNCHING STATES

Officers Of Law Were Instrumental In Preventing 56 Lynchings

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 23.—According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances; armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows; Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Birmingham, Ala. Post
December 28, 1937

EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED IN '37

Nation's Total Is Same As Last Year, Well Under 1934 And 1935

Eight persons were lynched in the United States in 1937, the same number as in 1936, it was reported today by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute.

The eight lynchings of 1937 show a reduction of 12 from the 1935 total, and are seven less than the number lynched in 1934.

"All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law, three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails," the report stated. The report was signed by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

"Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two, and Tennessee, one.

"There were 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

"In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Roanoke, Va., World News
December 30, 1937

The Lynching Record

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, eight persons were lynched in the year 1937, the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number for 1935, and 7 less than for the year 1934.

All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured, then one was shot to death and the other burned to death.

There were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 instances, the prisoners were removed, or the guards augmented, or other steps taken as precautions. In five instances, armed force was used to repel lynching parties.

A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes—two women and 70 men—were thus saved from death at the hands of angry mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched all were Negroes. The offenses charged were criminal assault, 1; robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred, and the number in each State were: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

But for one factor, the record is an encouraging one. Even in the face of acute provocation, people are acting with more restraint and showing more of respect for their courts and for law enforcement agencies. And the record of law enforcement officials in the main is excellent. They have undoubtedly acted in many instances not only to save life, but to save their States from disgrace.

The one discouraging factor is the attitude of the States in which lynchings have occurred. In each instance there has been the promise of an investigation, but the record does not show that any member of a lynching mob has been prosecuted or that the officials from whom prisoners were taken have been removed from office. Lynching has ceased in those States where lynching mobs have been prosecuted, and where officers have been removed who failed to protect their prisoners. It can be stamped out entirely if public opinion is sufficiently aroused.

BURLINGTON IA HAWKEYE GAZ
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

LYNCHINGS.

Annually at this season comes the report from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama giving a compilation of that institution's research in the matter of lynchings in the United States. The report this year is of more than usual interest because of the fact that the Congress, when it reconvenes in January, will take up the anti-lynching bill.

Tuskegee Institute reports that eight persons were lynched in the United States during 1937. This is the same number as for 1936. It is 12 less than the 1935 record, and seven less than in 1934.

A significant sentence in the report is: "All the persons lynched were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails." That is not a pleasing record. Yet there is a brighter side. There were 56 cases in which officers of the law did prevent lynchings, and 51 of these were in southern states. A total of 77 persons 72 of them Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

All of the eight persons lynched this year were Negroes, and the offenses charged were rape, 1; robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding an officer, 2.

It is also interesting to note that two of the victims were tortured with blow torches before being put to death.

A breakdown of the lynchings by states shows Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, one each; Mississippi, 2; Florida, 3. All of which may explain in a measure why the anti-lynching law is now so bitterly opposed by the delegates to Congress from the southern states.

MARSHALLTOWN, IA., TIMES REP
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

LYNCHINGS DECREASING.

The U. S. A. is making progress in the prevention and discouragement of lynchings. According to statistics issued Monday by the Tuskegee Institute there were only eight lynchings during the past year. This is not to say that the spirit of mob law has been entirely overcome. Rather there is indication of a growing sentiment against lynch law as expressed by statutes which would punish not only mob leaders but also officers who are negligent of duty and careless of responsibility.

That the mob spirit has not been overcome in those areas where color projudices prevail and there is no patience with the black man who transgresses the laws is evident. In 1937 there were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five such preventions were in the northern states where racial prejudices are not as extreme and where there is willingness to permit the law to take its course.

Fifty-one of the illegal executions were in southern states, and the eight men lynched during the year were Negroes. That rape is no longer the major crime which engenders the mob spirit is shown by the fact that only one of the victims was accused of that crime. Alleged guilt of murder accounted for half the lynchings. To the discredit of Florida three of the mob murders were committed in that state compared to only one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, states in which lynch law was once common.

Whether or not a national anti-lynching law is essential as a preventive measure, the nation is making progress in the prevention of execution by mobs. The nation is entitled to self congratulation.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

5828

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
January 1, 1938

DECREASE IN LYNCHINGS

Record of eight Lynchings in the South this year of course is a record of eight more lynchings than there should have been, but many will find comfort in the fact that the number of lynchings was 12 less than last year and 15 less than the year before that.

Florida led the lynching field with three Mississippi followed with two, and Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee contributed one each.

South Carolina had no lynchings.

What accounts for the ebb and flow in lynchings deserves more time and study than we are ready now to give, but one factor in the year's record is outstanding:

In 56 cases the intelligence of law enforcement officers prevented lynchings, and 51 of those cases were in the South.

The picture we get then is one of 59 potential southern lynchings and 8 actual lynchings—in approximately seven out of eight attempts the mob was thwarted by the sense and courage of the men in charge of the prisoners.

We have more than an average of suspicion that the decline in lynchings is due to an elevation in the type of men the people of the South are putting in charge of their law enforcement.

In any case the statistics for the year—and the three-year trend—should serve as good ammunition in the battle to saddle and disgrace the South with a federal anti-lynching bill, which is more of a dare to lynch than it is a preventative.

and all were in the hands of the law, three having been taken from jails and the others from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims, it is distressing to note, were tortured with a blow torch before one was shot to death and the other burned to death. That such savagery should obtain anywhere in this land since early Indian days seems incredible.

The Institute report notes fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these being in nothern states. In fifty-one instances the prisoners were removed, the guards were augmented or other precautions were taken. In the other five instances, armed force was used to repel the mobs, a total of seventy-seven being thus saved from death at the hands of mobs. This part of the record represents a hopeful phase of the whole sorry picture.

Columbus, Ga. Ledger
December 27, 1937

Lynchings Decline

Eight lynchings occurred in the south for the year now drawing to a close, according to a compilation by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

This figure, the same as prevailed in 1936, is 12 less than the number of 20 for 1935 and seven less than the 15 reported lynched in 1935.

Lynchings were reported in states as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2, and Tennessee, 1.

Thus, the report indicates most conclusively that mob violence in the south is distinctly on the wane and that annually less lynchings are being reported.

The south has made rapid strides in recent years to discourage and eliminate mob violence and the report of Tuskegee Institute demonstrates most emphatically that lynchings are now rare in the south.

The report stands out as an eloquent defense of the south in its fight against the anti-lynch law, proposed for enactment by the congress, which would take jurisdiction for handling mob violence cases out of the hands of the state courts and their officials.

Lynchings in the south are in the minority by far when we attempt to compare them with cases of mob action in other sections where gangsters and hoodlums ply their nefarious trade of slaughtering their foes without fear or fancy.

CUMBERLAND MD NEWS
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

Lynchings

FIVE SOUTHERN STATES had lynchings during the year just closing, according to the annual report on this form of mob law sent out by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, and while the record yet remains unsatisfactory it is gratifying that the total of eight does not represent an increase of the crime. The total is the same as for 1936, while in 1935 twenty were lynched and in the preceding year fifteen.

All of the persons lynched were Negroes

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
December 29, 1937

Tuskegee Institute announces eight lynchings in the United States during 1937, the same number as last year. One encouraging sign is that 77 lynchings were thwarted by officers of the law. The eight lynchings occurred in five Southern States—Alabama 1, Florida 3, Georgia 1, Mississippi 2 and Tennessee 1.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
December 30, 1937

Eight Mob Murders.

Unless there are other lynchings today or tomorrow, this year will close with only eight such crimes having been committed. This is the same number of lynchings as for 1936, but twelve less than for 1935, when twenty persons were put to death by mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched this year, all were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside of jails. All of the victims were Negroes, but only one was accused of rape, the crime which the mob originally presumed to punish.

There were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and fifty-one in Southern States. In fifty-one of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guard augmented or other precautions taken. In the other five instances armed force was used to repel the mobs.

In the fifty-six instances in which mobs were frustrated the lives of seventy-seven persons were saved. Of the seventy-seven, five were white men and seventy-two were Negroes, and two were women. Had these attempted lynchings been successful, eighty-five persons would have met death at the hands of mobs this year. While there has been a decline in the number of lynchings, at least temporarily, there seems to have been little or no abatement of the mob spirit.

Of the eight lynchings this year, three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi, one in Tennessee, one in Alabama and one in Georgia. And in no instance has any member of any one of the eight mobs been brought into court for his crime. Not a single mobster has even been apprehended, so far as the law is concerned. But one suspects that many of the lynchers could have been found had the responsible authorities been anxious to find them.

The eight mob murders that have occurred this year could have been prevented just as the fifty-six attempted outrages of the kind were prevented. If adequate measures were taken to prevent lynchings there would be few if any such crimes and no demand for a Federal anti-lynching law. Or if an honest effort were made to apprehend and punish mobsters, when these

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
December 30, 1937

Eight Persons Lynched During the Year 1937

Accoding to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institue there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number of 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number of 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

precautionary measures failed to prevent lynchings, there would be no demand for a Federal anti-lynching law. As it is, there is a widespread demand for such a law, and in all probability it will be placed on the Federal statutes within the next month.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Newport News, Va. Press
December 29, 1937

LYNCHING IS TARDILY OBSOLESCENT

One of the principal arguments used by the Southern members of Congress who have fought the anti-lynching legislation is that lynching is on the decrease. The evil, they say, will cure itself in the long run and so no federal interference is necessary. That thought is borne out to some extent by the figures for this year, though even one lynching is too inexcusably many and the argument will not hold good until a vast improvement is shown even over this year's record.

The summary, compiled by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, reads thus:

"I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number (eight) as for 1936, 12 less than the number 20 for 1935 and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States, and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

This record shows that lynching obsolescence is all too tardy and that the forces of education are but slowly leavening the lump of those who would resort to the law of the jungle. If there is some reassurance in the fact that officers of the law successfully resisted mobs in 56 instances, there is also grim warning in the fact that there were 56 mobs bent on taking the law into their own hands during the year. We must cure the lynching evil not only by the efficiency of our protection of prisoners but by the elimination of the mob itself through education. It is not enough to say that lynching is on the wane. Its complete elimination is the only acceptable condition.

Cullman, Ala., Democrat
December 30, 1937

NUMBER OF LYNCHINGS REMAIN SAME AS IN 1936

F. D. Patternson, president of Tuskegee Institute released the following statistics on lynchings during the year 1937:

"I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number for 1935, and 7 less than the number for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other cases, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons of which 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

"Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding an officer of the law, two.

"The states in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 2, 1938

Last Year's Lynching Record

Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research reports eight lynchings in 1937 and thereby writes the year down as equal to the best in this respect the country has ever known. In only one other year, 1932, has the number dropped as low as eight. In only one other instance, 1936, was it as low as nine, and for that matter there has been only one year in which the figure stopped at ten.

It is necessary to go a step further. The last two years—1936 with nine lynchings and 1937 with eight—constitute the best two-year record of all time. On the previous occasion when the number dropped to eight, which was in 1932, the preceding year had witnessed 13 lynchings and the succeeding year was to shoot up to the high total of 28. For 24 months, therefore, the South has had, on any comparative basis, an excellent record.

But at that point one has to shut down on the satisfaction. Eight lynchings are exactly eight more than a nation pretending to civilization can look upon with complacency. Moreover, although the past two years have been better, relatively speaking, there is little assurance that the coming year will maintain this improvement. The South had only 21 lynchings in the 24-month period of 1928 and 1929, yet the very next year of 1930 the number shot up to 21 for the single 12 months. The South had only eight lynchings in 1932, yet had 28 in 1933. How can anyone guess what will happen in 1938?

Furthermore, the eight lynchings of 1937 are in other respects peculiarly inexcusable. In only one of them, for instance, was rape charged against the victim. Four of them resulted from murder. Two of them resulted from wounding an officer of the law. It is quite plain, as it has been for many years, that the old theory of protecting Southern womanhood is fetish. Lynchings follow killings or fights and attempted killings more than any other crime. In many instances, it would seem probable, the regular processes of the law would not find cold-blooded, deliberate and premeditated murder at the heart of the alleged offense. More probably it would be second-degree murder or some lesser crime. Sometimes it would find no crime at all.

Finally, the 1937 record is especially vicious in one damning circumstance. Every man who was lynched during the year was taken by a mob from an officer or officers of the law. In no single instance, therefore, was there any real likelihood that the accused would escape the judgment of the law; and in every instance the officer or officers of the law failed to provide that protection which our whole system of law presupposes.

A man under arrest is a man whom the State has taken in charge, to deal with as the law shall determine but to care for and guard until the law has made its decision. Eight times during the year that protection failed—and men were shot and tortured with blow torches and burned to death. That is the failure that has driven many intelligent men and women the country over to the conclusion that something else not now present is needed to overcome the failure of officers to perform their manifest duty.

Columbus, Miss., Commerc'l Disp.
December 31, 1937

SYMPATHY FOR WHO?

This timely paragraph from Fred Sullens' column in the Jackson Daily News:

Two brutal Memphis negroes, probably crazed with liquor or some drug, went across the river into Arkansas and captured an 18-year-old girl. Then both ravished her. Negroes are in custody. And yet the Southern Association for the Protection of Colored People still wonders why lynchings occassionally happen. It has profound sympathy for the brute who is lynched but none for the poor victim.

It's an effective answer to to the proposal for an anti-lynching bill, now pending in the Congress.

Furthermore, statistics gathered by Tuskegee Institute in Alabama show that officers prevented 56 lynchings in 1937, and 51 of these were prevented in the South.

Which goes to prove that lynching is more effectively suppressed here than in any other section of the country.

In other sections of the country crimes, eminently worse than lynchings, seem to draw no criticism.

In fact, they are excluded from the vicious anti-lynching law proposal.

Lynchings—1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan.—Dec.

5829

Nashville Tenn Banner
December 28, 1937

8 Negroes Lynched In U. S. During 1937

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Lynch mobs killed eight persons, all Negroes, in the United States during 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Research and Records reported today.

The toll by states:

Florida, three; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; Alabama, one, and Georgia, one.

The same number met lynch deaths in 1936, Institute records showed.

Law enforcement officials prevented fifty-six possible lynchings which would have involved five white men and seventy-two Negroes, the Institute reported.

All of those lynched were taken from authorities, three having been removed forcibly from jails. Two were tortured with a blowtorch before being put to death. Offenses charged against the victims included: Criminal assault, one; crime against nature, one; murder, four, and wounding an officer, two.

The 1937 figures, issued by the Institute, America's largest Negro college, without comment, compared with twenty lynched in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

Mt. Airy, N. C., News
December 30, 1937

Lynching Toll In South For Year Same As In 1936

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida three, Mississippi two, Tennessee one, Alabama one, and Georgia one.

In 56 instances, the institute said officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: criminal assault, one, crime against nature and robbery, one, murder, four, wounding of officer, two.

Eatonton, Ga., Messenger
December 30, 1937

Georgia Lynches Only One During Entire Year 1937

According to statistics gathered by the research department of the Tuskeegee Institute, there were eight persons lynched in the United States during 1937. This is the same as for 1937; 12 less than the number 20 in 1935; and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from the jails and five were taken from officers outside of the jail. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

The eight lynching occurred as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Elizabethton, N. C., Journal
December 30, 1937

EIGHT TOO MANY

The lynching record for 1937 was the same as that for 1936, eight persons having been lynched during each year, according to statistics compiled by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute. That was 12 less than the number lynched during 1935, the number that year being 20. All the persons lynched were Negroes and the states in which lynchings occurred during 1937, together with the number lynched are: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1; Tennessee, 1. The report also shows that 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, were saved from death at the hands of mobs.

To this we might add, there were just eight too many lynchings in 1937.

Greenville, N. C.—Reflector
December 28, 1937

Research Reveals Eight Lynched In Nation This Year

Florida Reported Three, Mississippi Two, Georgia, Alabama And Tennessee One Each

Records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute showed that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blowtorch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer of the law, two.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

Blakeley, Ga. News
December 30, 1937

Eight Lynchings In United States During Year 1937

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., there were 8 persons lynched in the United States in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions were taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Taylorsville, N. C., Times.
December 30, 1937

EIGHT NEGROES LYNCHED IN 1937; OCCURS IN 5 STATE

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in Northern states and 51 in the South.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1935.

Offenses charged against the victims were listed as: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
December 29, 1937

Tuskegee Institute Reports 8 Lynchings

A check made on lynchings throughout the United States by the Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee and released this week shows that 8 persons were lynched in the United States during the present year.

This is the same number reported in 1936; 12 less than the number reported for the year 1935 and 7 less than the 1934 figure. There were 56 instances wherein officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these being in Northern states and 51 in Southern states.

The report shows that all victims were in the hands of the law at the time of the lynchings. The 8 persons lynched were all negroes. The offenses charged were rape, robbery, murder and wounding an officer. The states in which lynchings occurred were Alabama 1, Florida 3, Georgia 1, Mississippi 2 and Tennessee 1.

Miami, Fla Herald
December 29, 1937

SOUTH'S OFFICERS STOP 51 LYNCHINGS

Eight Persons Killed By Mobs During Year

Tuskegee Institute, negro school, credited law enforcement officers in Southern states with preventing 51 lynchings this year, as the total of persons killed by mobs stood at eight for the second year. Twenty persons were lynched in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Figures disclosed yesterday by

...Institute showed Northern authorities forestalled five lynchings. A total of 77 persons, five whites and 72 negroes, were saved from mobs. Two women were among those rescued.

All of the persons lynched were negroes. Four were suspected of murder, two of wounding officers, one of criminal assault and one of robbery. Florida had three lynchings, Mississippi two, and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee, one each.

Asheville, N. C., Times
December 27, 1937

8 Persons Lynched In 1937, Tuskegee Records Indicate

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: Rape 1, crime against nature and robbery 1, murder 4, wounding of officer 2.

McMinnville, Tenn. Standard
December 31, 1937

LYNCHINGS OF 1937 TOTALED 8 NEGROES

Victims of Mobs Equal Last Year—Toll States Blamed With One Each.

Eight persons, all Negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported this week.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

In fifty-six instances, the institute reported, officers prevented lynchings that would have involved five white men and seventy-two Negroes. Five such instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The eight 1936 and 1937 lynchings compared with twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside jails. Two were tortured with a blow-torch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
December 29, 1937

Lynchings for 1937

Eight lynchings is the sorry record run up to 1937. In each instance the victim of the mob was a negro. The total was exactly that of the year previous, 1936. The toll by states, as compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, was: Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia, 1.

South Carolina's slate was clean. It should be kept that way during the coming year and throughout recorded time. There is no justification for lynch law or mob rule.

SUFFOLK VA NEWS HERALD
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

MOB SPIRIT NATIONWIDE

According to records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute, eight persons were murdered by lynching mobs this year. As to be expected, all of them occurred in southern states, those farthest south of the Mason-Dixon line. No less strange every person done to death was a black man.

Furthermore, the records show that each victim was in the hands of law officers when taken out for the slaughter. Only three were in jails; the other five were snatched from men sworn to protect them. Details of their slaying are still fresh in the minds of the people.

Statistics show there were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Of these five were in northern states and the other fifty-one in the south. In fifty-one instances the prisoners were removed, the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In five others, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. Only one of the eight who died at the hands of the mob was charged with the unmentionable crime against a white woman.

The record is unspeakably bad. For it we have neither excuse nor apology. But the fact that so many were protected by the law from summary execution is encouraging. In 1934 the toll stood at fifteen; in 1935 twenty. No better proof is lacking than these figures that the lynching crime is on the wane. The conscience of the south has been stirred to its depths. Public sentiment is putting an end to this gory parade of violence.

This week in Newark, N. J., a white man killed a young girl in a manner which has few parallels in its diabolical cruelty and viciousness. Yesterday the wanton slayer was arraigned in court. There were shouts of "kill him" from among the spectators. A relative of the dead woman struck him a blow in open court. Had that been in any community less guarded by officers of the law, does anyone doubt what would have happened to him?

We merely mention this instance to show that the mob spirit is nationwide and rampant. Outraged citizens, inflamed by a particularly ferocious crime, lose control of their angry passions and must be restrained.

Federal laws nor federal might can do this. Public sentiment only can wipe out the stain of the mob. It will compel local authorities to do as the fifty-one in the south and the five in the north did. The crime of lynching will be abated when public sentiment, through respect for law, determines it must cease, anti-lynching law or no anti-lynching law notwithstanding.

NEWPORT NEWS VA PRESS
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

LYNCHING IS TARDILY OBSOLESCENT

One of the principal arguments used by the Southern members of Congress who have fought the anti-lynching legislation is that lynching is on the decrease. The evil, they say, will cure itself in the long run and so no federal interference is necessary. That thought is borne out to some extent by the figures for this year, though even one lynching is too inexcusably many and the argument will not hold good until a vast improvement is shown even over this year's record.

The summary, compiled by President F. D. PATTERSON of Tuskegee Institute, reads thus:

"I find, according to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number (eight) as for 1936, 12 less than the number 20 for 1935 and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

"There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States, and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1."

This record shows that lynching obsolescence is all too tardy and that the forces of education are but slowly leavening the lump of those who would resort to the law of the jungle. If there is some reassurance in the fact that officers of the law successfully resisted mobs in 56 instances, there is also grim warning in the fact that there were 56 mobs bent on taking the law into their own hands during the year. We must cure the lynching evil not only by the efficiency of our protection of prisoners but by the elimination of the mob itself through education. It is not enough to say that lynching is on the wane. Its complete elimination is the only acceptable condition.

Minneapolis, Minn. Journal
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1938

Lynchings Decline

That eight Negroes have been lynched in five Southern States in the year just closed is not a nice thing to contemplate, but there is the encouraging fact that a low mark has been reached. The number is the same as for 1936, as reported by Tuskegee Institute, but much smaller than the totals for preceding years.

There is further cause for optimism in the report sent to THE JOURNAL by President PATTERSON of Tuskegee. He finds that officers of the law prevented lynchings in 56 cases, involving 77 persons who were menaced by mobs. All but five of these were in Southern States, and were Negroes.

There has been justified complaint in cases where officers have seemed too ready to yield prisoners up to mobs. The anti-lynching bill now before Congress attempts to reach this by punishing the counties where lynchings are permitted to occur. There still are such cases of cowardice or collusion, but it is good to know that officers as a rule make a stand and succeed in preventing mob violence.

WINSTED CONN CITIZEN
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Report Eight Lynchings in Year

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 28—Mobs lynched eight persons, all Negroes, in the United States during 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of research and records reported today. The toll by states: Florida, three; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one; Alabama, one, and Georgia, one. The total was the same as that for 1936.

Lynchings-1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

Jan. - Dec.

5830

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
December 31, 1937

Mob Victims In 1937

Of the eight persons, all Negroes, reported by the Tuskegee Institute to have been lynched in 1937, it is noteworthy that two of them were accused of wounding officers, while four were charged with murder. That is, out of eight mob victims six were accused of offenses that could have been, and doubtless would have been, dealt with according to law, thus leaving no excuse for the mobs that acted as courts and executioners, too.

.....

The same number of lynchings took place in 1936, as compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934. It would be interesting to learn what factors caused the sudden drop from 20 to eight within a year and what influence, if any, could be ascribed to the increase in prosperity, with a consequent lessening in racial competition and hence of racial antagonism.

It is a welcome fact that during 1937 North Carolina's record was clear of lynchings. Florida had the most with three, and Mississippi followed with two. All the recorded lynchings took place in the Southeastern States. Why were there none in the Southwest? Why were there more lynchings in Florida, which has a smaller Negro population and a larger population of immigrant non-Southerners than Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas or Virginia?

Correct answers to these questions, if associated with a factual study of causes and effects, might do more to wipe out mob outbreaks that any number of Federal anti-lynch statutes. Certainly they would make possible action based upon facts and not merely upon emotions. Lynching as a crime against civilization deserves such realistic consideration and action shaped upon it.

Cookeville, Tenn. Herald
December 30, 1937

EIGHT PERSONS WERE LYNCHED IN 1937

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskekee Institute, there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934, the report shows. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death, according to records.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

WORCESTER MASS TELEGRAM
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

LYNCHING RECORD

Same Number This Year as Last, Tuskegee Reports

To the Editor of the Telegram:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number, eight as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow-torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern states and 51 in Southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer of the law, two.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 23.

Orangeburg, S. C., Times & Demo.
December 28, 1937

Eight Lynchings During This Year

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were negroes. The offenses were: rap, 1; crim against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occured an dthe number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3, Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Greensboro, N. C., News
December 28, 1937

Lynching Toll In South For Year Same As In 1936

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee institute department of records and research reported today.

The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida three, Mississippi two, Tennessee one, Alabama one, and Georgia one.

In 56 instances, the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and 51 in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Offense charged against the victims were listed as: criminal assault, one, crime against nature and robbery, one, murder, four, wounding of officer, two.

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
December 31, 1937

Lynchings

EIGHT persons were lynched this year, says President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute. The institute, for the training of colored young men and women, is in Alabama. It has issued statistics on lynchings for many years.

The number was the same as for 1936. It was 12 fewer than the 20 in 1935. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law—three were taken from jails and five from officers outside jails. "Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch, then one was shot to death and the other burned to death."

There were 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings, and 51 were in Southern states. Seventy-seven persons were saved from mobs.

All of the eight lynched were Negroes. Rape was the charge against one. Four were charged with murder. Lesser crimes were chaged against the other three.

Alabama had one lynching, Florida three, Georgia one, Mississippi two, Tennessee one. So all of the mob murders were in the South. We are proud that the Carolinas show white on the 1937 lynching map.

Tuskegee's report offers no comment, President Patterson following the same course as his predecessors. But it is obvious that the reason for the year-end statistics is the promotion of sentiment against lynching, a sentiment that should be promoted.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
December 29, 1937

LYNCHINGS IN 1937

This year, as last, there were eight lynchings in the United States, all of which took place in Southern States. Fifty-six attempted lynchings were prevented by officers of the law in 1937, while in 1936 69 attempts were frustrated. In other words, while there were the same number of lynchings in 1937 as in 1936 there were fewer attempted lynchings this year than last. Thus some improvement in the last 12 months can be noted.

Eight is the smallest number of lynchings ever reported in one year in this country. In 1932 also there were eight lynchings, while in the years before that the number sometimes ran 20, 30, 40, and even as high in 1892 as 231. The figures show incontestably that improvement is being

...though improvement is not being made so rapidly as is possible.

In Alabama there were no lynchings in 1935 or in 1936, but this year there did occur one horrible mob murder to mar the State's record.

Figures for the last few years throw interesting light upon the progress that is gradually being made to stamp out this crime against law and order. In 1920 there were 60 lynchings in this country; there were 62 in 1921; 57 in 1922; 33 in 1923; 16 in 1924; 17 in 1925; 30 in 1926; 16 in 1927; 11 in 1928; 10 in 1929; 21 in 1930; 13 in 1931; 8 in 1932; 28 in 1933; 15 in 1934; 20 in 1935; 8 in 1936, and 8 in 1937.

The decline has, to be sure, not been so sturdy as it should have been, but it has nevertheless been shown that the people of this country, and especially of this section, are determined to stamp out lynching completely. How fine it would be if we could go through 1938 without a single mob murder!

BROOKLYN N Y EAGLE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Tuskegee Institute Submits Figures On Lynchings for the Current Year

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

I find, according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935, and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death, and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer of the law, two.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

F. D. PATTERSON, President.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 23.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
December 29, 1937

Lynchings In 1937.

Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, a report from the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, of Alabama, reveals. This is no worse and no better than the 1936 record; but the number of persons lynched, eight in each of these years, is considerably smaller than in either 1935 or 1934.

This year's report shows that there were 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings; five in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of these cases prisoners were removed, guards augmented or other precautions taken; while in five instances armed force was employed to repel would-be mob-killers. This phase of the report is strikingly significant.

Here is strong and encouraging evidence of a fortright and aggressive determination on the part of law enforcement officers, in the south and in other sections of the country, to protect their prisoners from threats and violence and to wipe out the hideous and cowardly crime of lynching.

Further, we interpret this as evidence that public sentiment, in the south and elsewhere, is overwhelmingly against mob crime; and that the people generally are growing more and more determined to see that justice is meted out by the courts rather than seeing cowardly thugs and misguided zealots take the law into their own hands.

Even those who seem so determined to enact a federal anti-lynching law must see in these facts evidence of progress in the efforts of the states to blot out lynching. All of the states have laws against lynching; a fact which would seemingly obviate the necessity for a transfer of still more authority and power from the state capitals to the central government in Washington.

It is possible, in virtually all cases, as illustrated by the record of lynchings in 1937, for the local officers to enforce the law without the assistance, or interference, as one may view it, of federal police or federal judicial authorities.

Charlottesville, Va. Progress
December 28, 1937

Eight Are Victims Of Lynching Groups

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Dec. 28—(AP)—Eight persons, all colored, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research has reported.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year:

Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

In fifty-six instances, the Institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The institute, America's largest Negro college, issued its report without comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

Offenses charged against the victims were listed as: Rape 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer 2.

Reidsville N C Review
December 29, 1937

EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED IN '37

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number eight as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched all were negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape 1; crime against nature and robbery 1; murder 4; wounding officer of the law 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 1, Florida 3, Georgia 1, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1.

NEW YORK N Y SUN
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Lynchings In 1937.

The annual report of Tuskegee Institute on lynchings puts the number in 1937 at eight, the same number as in 1936. In 1937 all those lynched were Negroes. Three of this year's lynchings occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia. To be read with these figures are others which the Alabama school obtained, which show that in fifty-six instances in 1937 officers of the law prevented a lynching; on fifty-one occasions this successful intervention of the law occurred in Southern States.

On January 8 the Senate will once again take up the anti-lynching bill already passed by the House of Representatives. Some of the critics of the bill have pointed out that it provides no machinery for preventing lynchings, but it does provide heavy penalties to be applied to counties and county officers after a lynching has occurred. The Tuskegee statistics are certain to be cited frequently in the course of Senate debate. They represent the freshest information available about the extent of the evil of lynching.

Wilson, N. C., Wkly. Times
December 28, 1937

8 LYNCHINGS

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research reported today. The 1936 toll also was eight.

Deaths by states this year: Florida 3, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

In fifty-six instances the institute said, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these cases occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with twenty in 1935 and fifteen in 1934.

Greenville, Miss., Democrat Times
December 27, 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS IN U. S. FOR 1937 2 IN MISSISSIPPI

[By The Associated Press]

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 27—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and research reported today.

The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The death toll by states:

Florida, 3; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama, 1; Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings that involved five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty one in the south.

The institute, America's largest negro college, issued its statistical report without comment, a customary procedure, under signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Two were tortured with a blowtorch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as; rape 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer, 2.

SAVANNAH GA TIMES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

Southeast Lists Eight Lynchings For Year 1937

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 28—Eight lynchings occurred in five Southern States during 1937, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Three occurred in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Eight lynchings were recorded in 1936, 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934

Lynchings- 1937
Reports on, Sent Press

Jan. - Dec.

5831

Austin, Minn., Herald
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1937

LYNCHINGS CONTINUE IN U. S.

According to the records compiled in the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number, eight as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and seven less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these were in northern states and 51 in southern states. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, two women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer of the law, two.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, 3; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

If congress passes the anti-lynching bill, its advocates feel confident the use of blow torches by mobs to torture negroes will cease. The fact that crimes by negroes continue despite the brutality of lynchings indicate that the mob rule method is faulty. Whether an anti-lynching law would be as ineffective in its purpose furnishes an interesting subject for conjecture.

CONCORD N. C. TRIBUNE
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

ESCAPED AGAIN.

Unless the mob spirit breaks through within the next couple of days, North Carolina in 1937 again will escape without a single lynching against her record.

Eight persons were lynched during the year, according to President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute, and the lynchings were confined to five Southern States.

North Carolina hasn't solved the last mob attack within her borders, primarily because those in authority didn't care whether they solved it, so it seems we are fortunate in that the mob spirit didn't manifest itself during the year. In some instances our officers have been courageous enough to fight the mob; in others they turned over their prisoners with the old excuse of being "overpower by masked men."

Lynchings can be stopped throughout the land when a majority of the people want them stopped. And they can't be stopped by federal legislation. The desire must come from within, not from without.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
December 30, 1937

Eight Persons Were Lynched During 1937

According to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute there were 8 persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number 8 as for 1936; 12 less that the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the laws outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were 56 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, 5 of these were in Northern States and 51 in Southern States. In 51 of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken. In the 5 other instances, armed force was used to repel the would be lynchers. A total of 77 persons, 5 white men and 72 Negroes, 2 women and 70 men, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4 wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3; Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Troy, Ala., Messenger
December 28, 1937

Institute Reports Lynching Record

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 28—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching at the hands of Southern mobs in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute of Records of Research reported. The 1936 death toll was identical.

In 56 instances, the Institute reported, officers of the law prevented lynchings that would have involved five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and 51 in the South.

The Institute, America's largest negro college, issued its statistical report without comment, a customary procedure, under the signature of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

All of those lynched were taken from "the law," three being removed from jails and five taken from officers outside the jails. Two were tortured with a blow torch before being put to death.

Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as: rape 1, crime against nature and robbery 1 murder 4, wounding of officer 2.

The death toll by States: Florida 2, Mississippi 2, Tennessee 1, Alabama 1, Georgia 1.

CHARLESTON S. C. POST
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

LYNCHING DECREASES

The Tuskegee Institute reports that during the year 1937 eight persons were lynched in the United States, the same number as in 1936. The figure for 1935 was 20 and for 1934 it was 15, showing that there has been a steady decline. All of the eight lynched in 1937 were negroes and all in the South—none, however, it is gratifying to note, in South Carolina. Florida had three cases, Mississippi two and Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee one each. Half of the number were charged with murder, two with wounding an officer and one each with rape and robbery. By comparison with the number of lynchings that took place in former years, the record for 1937 is small, indeed, and it reveals lynching as a really inconsequential crime element in the national situation by contrast with the gangster killings and sex crimes of the large cities.

Gratifying as is the showing for 1937, however, and encouraging as is the progress of the decline, even more to be applauded is the news that in 56 instances which the Institute gathered for its records officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these instances being in the North and 51 in the South. In most cases prisoners were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken to prevent ly ching, but in some armed force was used to repel attacks by would-be lynchers. In some of the cases, no doubt, officers of the law risked their lives to protect their prisoners. A total of 77 persons, including five whites and 72 negroes, were in this manner saved from death.

The record is one which clearly demonstrates the ability and the willingness of the States to deal with their lynching problems and as clearly shows that there is absolutely no need or excuse for a federal anti-lynching law such as is now pending in Congress, which is intended for political purposes only and which would not only strike a blow at the right of States to manage their own police administration as seems best to them, but would be an entering wedge for other legislation designed to permit still greater federal interference in the internal affairs of the States. Lynching is no longer a major problem in this country. In forty-three States during 1937 there was no lynching and they included, incidentally, a majority of the States of the South. A record equally good was made in the year 1936. In the light of these facts, the opposition to the federal anti-lynching bill should be more determined than ever. It can have no meaning except as a punitive measure against the South undertaken for the gratification of its enemies.

ROCKFORD (ILL.) STAR
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

56 LYNCHINGS STOPPED

Tuskegee Institute, which annually compiles a record of lynchings in the United States, reports that the year 1937 saw eight persons lynched, all in the southern states, all negroes, two outrageously tortured before death. Florida had three lynchings, Mississippi two, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee one each. The Carolinas, Louisiana and Texas came through with clean slates. In 1936 there were likewise eight lynchings, in 1935 there were twenty and in 1934 there were fifteen. Back in 1884, there were 211 lynchings, of which 190 were white; in 1892 there were 231, of which 69 were white. In 1902, lynchings fell under the 100 mark for the first time and have waned pretty consistently since. The years 1926 and 1933 were the worst recent years, with 30 lynchings in 1926 and 28 in 1933.

On the credit side of the ledger for 1937 are 56 instances in which officers prevented lynchings. Five were in the north. Fifty-one southern peace officers, sometimes backed by troops, stood off mobs. They proved that it could be done. The state of Virginia has proved for years that it can be done. Texas is proving it.

Local law, on the spot and faced with the decision, alone can prevent lynchings. Federal law can only punish after the event. And what the nation seeks is prevention of an ugly disease growing out of undiscipline. An increasingly enlightened south will some day write off the last breakdown of discipline and the whole nation will rejoice with the south.

Charleston, S. C. Evening Post
December 29, 1937

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Gratifying as is the showing for 1937, however, and encouraging as is the progress of the decline, even more to be applauded is the news that in 56 instances which the institute gathered for its records officers of the law prevented lynchings, five of these instances being in the North and 51 in the South. In most cases prisoners were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken to prevent it, using, but in some armed force was used to repel attacks by would-be lynchers. In some of the cases, no doubt, officers of the law risked their lives to protect their prisoners. A total of 77 persons, including five whites and 72 negroes, were in this manner saved from death.

The record is one which clearly demonstrates the ability and the willingness of the States to deal with their lynching problems and as clearly shows that there is absolutely no need or excuse for a federal anti-lynching law such as is now pending in Congress, which is intended for political purposes only and which would not only strike a blow at the right of States to manage their own police administration as seems best to them, but would be an entering wedge for other legislation designed to permit still greater federal interference in the internal affairs of the States. Lynching is no longer a major problem in this country. In forty-three States during 1937 there was no lynching and they included, incidentally, a majority of the States of the South. A record equally good was made in the year 1936. In the light of these facts, the opposition to the federal anti-lynching bill should be more determined than ever. It can have no meaning except as a punitive measure against the South undertaken for the gratification of its enemies.

NEW YORK N.Y. EVE. POST
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1937

Florida, Scene of Shoemaker Murder, Leads With 3 Victims

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; twelve less than the number twenty for 1935, and seven less than the number fifteen for 1934.

All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; three were taken from jails, and five from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

There were fifty-six instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Five of these were in Northern States, and fifty-one in Southern States. In fifty-one of the instances the prisoners were removed or the guards augmented or other precautions taken.

In the five other instances, armed force was used to repel the would-be lynchers. A total of seventy-seven persons, five white men and seventy-two Negroes, were thus saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the eight persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: rape, one; crime against nature and robbery, one; murder, four; wounding officer of the law, two.

The States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Alabama, one; Florida, three; Georgia, one; Mississippi, two; Tennessee, one.

F. D. PATTERSON, President,
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

HARTFORD CONN. TIMES
TUESDAY DECEMBER 28 1937

EIGHT LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN 1937

Tuskegee Institute Survey Shows All Were Negroes

Eight Negroes were lynched in the United States this year, the same number as in 1936, Tuskegee Institute reports.

The department of records and research of Tuskegee for many years has been making an annual statement of the lynching record. It finds that the number of prisoners violently and unlawfully slain in 1937 is 12 less than the 20 lynched in 1935, and seven less than the 15 lynched in 1934.

All of the persons lynched this year were Negroes, and all were in the hands of the law. Three were taken from jails and five from officers outside jails. Two of the victims were tortured with blow torches before they were killed.

In 56 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings, a total of 77 persons, five white men and 72 Negroes, being saved from death at the hands of mobs.

Of the crimes alleged to have been committed by the persons lynched, two were sex crimes, four murders and two wounding officers of the law. There were three lynchings in Florida, two in Mississippi and one each in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

PORTLAND (ORE.) NEWS
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

1937 Lynch Toll Is Eight Persons

Florida Leads 5 Southern States in Lynchings During Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 27.—(AP)—Eight persons, all negroes, died by lynching in 1937, the Tuskegee Institute Department of Records and Research reported today. The 1936 lynch toll also was eight.

The 1937 death toll by states:

Florida 3; Mississippi 2; Tennessee 1; Alabama 1; Georgia 1.

In 56 instances, the institute reported, officers prevented lynchings that would involve five white men and 72 negroes. Five of these instances occurred in northern states and fifty-one in the south.

The eight 1937 and 1936 lynchings compared with 20 in 1935 and 15 in 1934.

Of the 1937 lynching three were removed from jails and five taken from officers outside of jails. Offenses charged against the lynch victims were listed as rape 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding of officer 2.

PENSACOLA FLA. NEWS
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

EIGHT PERSONS LYNCHED IN 1937

All Are Negroes, Institute Reports

(By The Associated Press)

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PITTSFIELD MASS EAGLE
MONDAY DECEMBER 27 1937

Lync[illegible]ecord

To the Editor of the Eagle:—

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1937. I find according to the records compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, of which I am president, that there were eight persons lynched in 1937. This is the same number as for 1936; 12 less than the number 20 for 1935; and 7 less than the number 15 for 1934. All of the persons lynched were in the hands of the law; 3 were taken from jails, and 5 from officers of the law outside of jails. Two of the victims were tortured with a blow torch; then one was shot to death and the other was burned to death.

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Of the 8 persons lynched, all were Negroes. The offenses charged were: Rape, 1; crime against nature and robbery, 1; murder, 4; wounding officer of the law, 2.

The states in which lynchings occured and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama, 1; Florida, 3, Georgia, 1; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Lynchings - 1937
Reports on, Sent Press.

United States News.

5833

Yazoo, Miss. Sentinel
January 4, 1938

LYNCHING AND STATE RIGHTS

The recent debates in Congress over the proposed law for Federal punishment of communities in which lynchings occur, and of officials who fail to protect prisoners from mob vengeance, has brought the subject of mob murders to the fore again.

According to the United States News, 3,679 individuals were lynched in the United States in the 55 years between 1882 and September 1, 1937. Lynchings occurred in all but seven states; the six New England states and New Jersey are the only states in which no group of persons took the law into their own hands.

Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings occurred in the eight states of Mississippi, with 485 victims; Georgia, 469; Texas, 345; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241; and Tennessee, 210. Most of the southern victims of mob law were Negroes. The 700 white persons who were lynched in the North comprised 88 percent of all of the "lynchees" in 17 states.

No one in Congress arose to defend illegal executions under "lynch law." That mobs do not take the law into their own hands where the people feel assured of exact and speedy justice at the hands of courts and the officers of the law is conceded. But the fact that the laws providing for the protection of criminals against mob violence are sometimes inadequately enforced does not warrant the overriding of the state's right of self-government by the Federal government, the opponents of the anti-lynching proposal contend, any more than does the fact that in many instances in every state criminals succeed in going scot-fee.

Mount Airy, N. C. Times
January 7, 1938

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Nearly three-quarters of all lynchings occurred in the eight states of Mississippi, with 485 victims, Georgia, 569; Texas, 354; Louisiana, 348; Alabama, 305; Florida, 248; Arkansas, 241, and Tennessee, 210. Most of the southern victims of mob law were Negroes. The 700 white persons who were lynched in the North comprised 88 percent of all of the "lynchees" in 17 states.

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St. Cloud, Fla., Tribune
January 6, 1938

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Ayden, N. C., Dispatch
January 6, 1938

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TUSKEGEE, TENN., GAZETTE
JAN. 5, 1938 J11

LYNCHING AND STATE RIGHTS

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Tuskegee

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SUPERIOR, NEB., EXPRESS
JAN. 6, 1938 J12

LYNCHING AND STATE LAWS

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Lanett, Ala. Times
January 5, 1938

LYNCHING AND STATE RIGHTS

The recent debates in Congress over the proposed law for federal punishment of communities in which lynchings occur, and of officials who fail to protect prisoners from mob vengeance, has brought the subject of mob murder to the fore again.

According to the United States News, 3,679 individuals were lynched in the United States in the 55 years between 1882 and Sept. 1, 1937. Lynchings occurred in all but seven states; the six New England states and New Jersey are the only states in which no group of persons took the law into their own hands.

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Maxton, N .C., Chief
January 14, 1938

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St. Mary's, W. Va. Leader
January 7, 1938

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Lynchings-1937
6
Reports on, Sent Press.

United States News

5834

Tiptonburg, Tenn. Gazette
January 5, 1938

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Laverne, Ala., Journal
January 5, 1938

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Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
January 19, 1938

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Elba, Ala., Clipper
January 6, 1938

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Sumter, S. C., Herald
January 4, 1938

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Humboldt, Tenn., Courier-Chronicle
January 13, 1938

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5834

REGARDING NEWSPAPER RELEASES OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18.

Seven Lynchings in 1937, Tuskegee Records Show

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or alleged offender — is fast disappearing, records at Tuskegee Institute show.

While Congress battles over anti-lynching legislation in Washington, Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted Negro college, revealed that in 1937, only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil war.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December—is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935's figure of 20 victims.

Figures kept by the department of research and records at the college since 1882 disclosed that lynchings have steadily declined in the past 55 years. According to the record 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes—were lynched during that period.

Night-riding mobs which spread terror into the hearts of Negroes reached a peak in the reconstruction period. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs. Of those, 160 were Negroes and 51 were whites.

Forty-two states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi which reported 563 deaths.

Georgia reported 515; Texas 488; Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; and Arkansas 286. In the North New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey 1, and Delaware 1.

Records show that in 55 years only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death for sex crimes," the statistician said.

"There were 1,100 persons — 617 whites and 1,093 Negroes—put to death on that charge, compared with 3,482 killings for other crimes."

Mr. Work said that lynchings were possibly slightly more humane today than they were 50 years ago. Then, many victims were burned alive, but few such instances have occurred recently, the favorite method being to burn the bodies of victims after shooting and hanging them.

Dr. Work Reports on Lynchings for 1937; Reveals 7

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Nov. 24.—(Special)—This week, with the Senate filibuster against the anti-lynch bill still holding the attention of the nation, Dr. Monroe N. Work, Tuskegee Institute statistician and editor of the Negro Year Book, revealed that in 1937, only seven persons in this country met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil War.

Because lynchings are rare during November and December, the figure is considered complete, the 1937 total being one lower than in 1936, 12 lower than in 1935. Dr. Work said that figures kept at Tuskegee since 1882 show that lynchings have declined steadily in the past 55 years. They show that 4,672 persons—3,383 Negroes and 1289 whites—were lynched during that period.

Dr. Work also said records of his department showed that lynchings were "more humane" today than 50 years ago, explaining that then many of the victims were burned alive—this barbarous practice being replaced by burning the victims after they had been shot or hanged.

7 LYNCHED IN 1937, MONROE WORK SAYS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 23.—Seven persons have met death by mob violence this year, fewer than in any years since the Civil War, Monroe Work, statistician at Tuskegee Institute, declared this week.

The figure is considered final, as it is unlikely that there will be more lynchings before January 1, since they are rare in November and December, Mr. Work said. This figure is one less than in 1936 and twelve lower than in 1935.

Figures kept by the Department of Research and Records at the college since 1882 disclose that 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes, have been lynched since that time. Mob violence reached its peak during the reconstruction period, when, in 1884, 211 persons were illegally murdered. Of these, 160 were Negroes.

School Statistician Announces Lynchings Of 1937 Set New Low

Records of the Tuskegee Institute show a rapid disappearance in lynch law.

Monroe N. Work, statistician of the Alabama College, revealed this week that in 1937 only seven persons met death through mob violence, the smallest number in any year since the Civil War.

This figure, which is considered complete due to the infrequency of lynchings in the months of November and December, is one lower than in 1936 and twelve lower than in 1935.

Figures kept by the Department of Research and Records at the college since 1882, disclosed that lynchings have already declined in the past fifty-five years. According to the record, 4,672 persons, 1, 289 whites and 3,388 Negroes, had been lynched during this period.

Night-riding mobs which terrorized Negroes, reached their peak in the reconstruction period. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs. Of these, 160 were Negroes and 51 were whites.

Forty-two states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi, which reported 563. Georgia reported 515 Texas 488, Louisiana 389; Alabama 343, and Arkansas, 286. In the North, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey one and Delaware 1.

In 55 years only 2.5 per cent of the total lynched were put to death because of alleged rape.

More than 10 per cent of the Negroes lynched during the 55 yaers were slain for such minor offenses as the following:

Being a witness at a trial, writing insulting notes to white persons, insisting on eating in a white restaurant when refused service, boasting in public, strike-breaking, insisting on voting and discussing a lynching.

Lynching Report Untimely

Reporting of lynching, a release from Tuskegee Institute on that subject seems to us to have been untimely. With the anti-lynching bill standing a golden chance of being passed by this session of Congress, anything said that tends to put a damper on its passage gives its enemies more fodder to try to prevent the measure becoming a law of the land.

Monroe N. Work, statistician at Tuskegee, revealed through a press release last week that in 1937 only seven persons met death by mob violence—the smallest number, he said, since the Civil War.

Mr. Work, it seems to us, should have stated in his untimely release the fact that whenever there is agitation for the passage of an anti-lynching bill the number of lynchings decreases. Although this would have tended to mitigate the possible harm of his release, it would have been much better, we think, if he hadn't released his figures now.

Giving Inside Story

Desmond Donnelly gave us his first piece last week about what is really happening in the West Indies. And the story of Butler, the inspired West Indian leader, who moved the downtrodden masses in his beautiful islands to strike against economic and other forms of slavery, gives us hope. The sort of hope that goes with a feel of certainty that black men living on little islands and in big countries have the guts and the spirit to strike for the rights of man—the right to live decently and democratically.

LYNCHINGS - 1937 REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

REGARDING NEWSPAPER RELEASES OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18.

5835

Birmingham, Ala. Post
November 19, 1937

OFFICERS WINNING FIGHT TO WIPE OUT CRIME OF LYNCHING

Congress Battles Over Issue, But Mob Deaths Have Almost Disappeared From America In Last 31 Years —Only Seven So Far In 1937

While Congress battled over an anti-lynching bill today records of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama Negro college, disclosed lynching almost has reached the vanishing point in the United States.

Mobs hung but eight persons in 1936, and seven so far in 1937, compared with 13,000 who were murdered and 36,000 killed by automobiles over the nation.

Since 1882, the first year records were kept, a total of 4672 persons—1289 white persons and 3383 Negroes—have been lynched in the United States.

Peak of Terrorism

Night-riding mobs reached the peak of their terrorism during the period just after the Civil War, killing 776 persons, 475 white persons and 301 Negroes, up until 1886. From then until 1896, 548 white persons, and 1035 Negroes were hanged and shot or burned. From 1897 to 1906, 348 white persons and 1035 Negroes were lynched. In the 31 years since then, only 1283 persons were lynched.

As the number of lynchings dropped, the ratio of persons prevented from being lynched rose steadily until 1922.

In 1914, peace officers prevented 54 mob-deaths. In 1921, they stopped 108, in 1922, 114, and in 1923 saved 56. Since then the number of prevented lynchings has dropped almost as fast as the lynchings, totaling 79 in 1936. Since 1914, 1298 lynchings have been prevented.

Contention Refuted

Records show," said Monroe N Work, director of research at Tuskegee Institute, "that in the 55 years from 1882 to 1937, only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death by mobs for the charge of criminal attack.

"There were 1190 persons, 97 white persons and 1093 Negroes, put to death on that charge, compared with 3483 killed for other crimes, thus refuting the charge the majority of lynchings are for the crime of criminal attack.

"An investigation into causes of lynchings show that over 10 per cent of the Negroes lynched during the period were for such minor offenses as being a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, strike breaking, boasting, vagrancy, insisting on voting, and discussing a lynching."

Cause for Lynchings

During the 55-year period, 1921 persons were lynched for committing homicides, 198 for felonious assault, 908 for criminal assault, 282 for attempted criminal assault, 227 for robbery, 81 for insulting white persons, and 1055 for all other causes.

Records of the institute show that methods of lynchings have changed much with the passing years. In the '90's, many victims were burned alive, but few such instances have occurred in the last 15 years.

Last year's most bizarre death occurred in Marianna, Fla., when townspeople were aroused over the assault and slaying of a 15-year-old girl, whose body was buried in a pig sty.

Lynching Advertised

After the Negro's arrest and confession, a lynching was advertised in the local newspaper for two days. Officers fled with the Negro to Pensacola and from there to Brewton, Ala. The mob, trailing the sheriff in automobiles, stormed the Brewton Jail and took the Negro back to Marianna.

There he was shot and stabbed and hanged from a tree on the spot where the crime occurred, then taken into Marianna, where his body was stretched from a tree on the Courthouse lawn.

In 1935, 20 persons were lynched, eight less than in 1933, and 53 instances where law officers were successful in preventing lynchings.

Nine in the North

Nine of the total were in Northern and Western states and 44 in Southern communities. Of the total, only six were charged with assault or attempted assault.

Only one lynching has occurred in Alabama during either the first or second administration of Governor Graves. When that occurred; the governor ordered impeachment proceedings brought against the sheriff of Henry County for neglect of duty—believed to be the first time in history a Southern governor has taken such action.

The majority of mob deaths occurred in eight states of the Deep South, with Alabama standing fifth having 343, of which 296 were Negroes and 47 whites.

Six States Have None

Mississippi had the highest total, 563, with 522 Negroes and 41 whites. Georgia was next with 515, 478 Negroes and 37 whites. Texas was third with 488, 345 Negroes and 143 white; while Florida had 272, of which 248 were Negroes, Arkansas 285 with 226 Negroes; Louisiana 389 with 333 Negroes, and Tennessee, 247, with 200 Negroes and 47 white.

A total of 42 states report lynchings during the period, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticutt reported none.

New York had two, Arizona 29 all white persons, Delaware one, Oregon 21, California 43, Colorado 68, Idaho 20, Illinois 31, Indiana 47, Iowa 19, Kansas 54, Kentucky 205, Louisiana 389, Maryland 29, Michigan eight, Minnesota nine, Missouri 121, Montana 84, Nebraska 37, Nevada six, New Jersey one, New Mexico 36, North Carolina 98, North Dakota 16, Ohio 26, Oklahoma 123, Pennsylvania eight, South Carolina eight, South Dakota 27, Utah eight, Virginia 90, Washington 26, West Virginia 49, Wisconsin six, Wyoming 35.

ANNISTON, ALA. STAR
NOV. 18, 1937

LYNCH LAW IS DISAPPEARING FROM AMERICA

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Rapid Decrease In Mob Deaths

By THOMAS A. DOZIER
United Press Staff Correspondent

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 18—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing in America, records at Tuskegee Institute today showed.

While Congress battled over anti-lynching legislation in Washington, Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted Negro college here, revealed that in 1937, only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil War.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December—is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935's figure of 20 slain.

Figures kept by the Department of Research and Records at the Negro college since 1882 showed that lynchings have steadily declined during the past 55 years.

The statistics also showed that 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes—were lynched during this period.

Night-riding mobs which spread terror into the hearts of Negroes reached their height in the Reconstruction period which followed the Civil War. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs who sought to take justice in their own hands.

Of these, 160 were Negroes and 51 were whites.

A total of 42 states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi, in the heart of the Deep South, which reported 563 deaths.

Georgia reported 515; Texas, 488; Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343, and Arkansas, 286.

In the North, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey, 1, and Delaware, 1. Several Western states, where lynching for horse-stealing was prevalent, reported many more.

"Records show that in 55 years, only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death for the charge of rape," Work said.

"There were 1,190 persons—97 whites and 1,093 Negroes—put to death on that charge, compared with 3,482 killings for other crimes, thus refuting the assertion that a majority of lynchings are for rape."

BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21 1937

Lynch Law

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In 55 years, only 25.5 percent of the total lynched were put to death because of rape.

More than 10 percent of the Negroes lynched during the 55 years were slain for such mino offenses as the following:

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KANSAS CITY, MO., TIMES
NOV. 27, 1937 N27

LYNCHING ON THE WANE.

Editorial Opinion of the St. Paul Dispatch.

While Congress battles over proposed national antilynching legislation it is pertinent to consider the present status of lynch law in this country. Evidently it is fast disappearing.

According to a report issued by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only seven persons met death by mob violence this year, the smallest number in any year since the Civil war. Although several weeks still remain in 1937, the figure is considered complete by Tuskegee statisticians as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December. This year's lynch law record, therefore, is one less than in 1936 and twelve fewer than in 1935. It is noted in the antilynching bill filibuster which is now tying in the senate that the most vigorous arguments against the proposed legislation are made on the grounds not only of alleged unconstitutionality but also on the fact that since lynchings are becoming fewer every year the subject has not sufficient importance to occupy senate attention.

The decline of mob murders is probably the best argument of the filibusters. Obviously if there were no lynchings there would be no need for an antilynching bill. A few lynchless years would reduce the subject to a mere academic question. Proponents of such legislation, however, might continue to insist on it as a protection against possible mob violence but this would be tantamount to attempting to legislate against a state of civilization.

VICKSBURG, MISS. POST
DEC. 16, 1937 D21

A measure known as the anit-lynching bill is being forced through congress. The name of the bill is a misnomer. It is actually not so much an effort to halt the crime of lynching, but an effort to take from the states one of their most vital rights, their police power.

Every decent man or woman in the south would gladly welcome anything which would stamp out lynch law. The steady improvement in the lynch record of the south is irrefutable proof of this. According to the Negro Year Book, published at Tuskegee Institute, the average annual total of lynchings had shrunk to 13.6 for the decade ending with 1936, from 103.5 for the decade ending in 1896. This is a greater improvement than that for lynching of white men in the west and other parts of the country.

But this misnamed "anti-lynching" bill does not seek along intelligent, cooperative lines, to help the south stamp out this most horrible crime. It seeks, rather, to invoke the federal powers to punish local enforcement officers and the entire population, innocent and guilty alike, where a lynching occurs. It even makes it financially alluring for the family survivors of the victim for the lynching to occur.

ENID, OKLA., NEWS
DEC. 8, 1937 D22

LYNCHING ON THE WANE

While congress battles over proposed national anti-lynching legislation it is pertinent to consider the present status of lynch law in this country. Evidently it is fast disappearing.

According to a report issued by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous negro college only seven persons met death by mob violence this year, the smallest number in any year since the Civil war. Although several weeks still remain in 1937, the figure is considered complete by Tuskegee statisticians as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December. This year's lynch law record, therefore, is one less than in 1936 and 12 fewer than in 1935. It is noted in the anti-lynching bill filibuster which is now tying in the senate that the most vigorous arguments against the proposed legislation are made on the grounds not only of alleged unconstitutionality but also on the fact that since lynchings are becoming fewer every year the subject has not sufficient importance to occupy senate attention.

The decline of mob murders is probably the best argument of the filibusters. Obviously if there were no lynchings there would be no need for an anti-lynching bill. A few lynchless years would reduce the subject to a mere academic question. Proponents of such legislation, however, might continue to insist on it as a protection against possible mob violence but this would be tantamount to attempting to legislate against a state of civilization.—*St. Paul Dispatch.*

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
December 28, 1937

Of 4,681 persons lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1935, inclusive, the Tuskegee Institute reports, 1,311 were white and 3,370 negro.

NASHVILLE TENN. BANNER
NOV. 27, 1937 D4

AN EASTERN VIEW

The New York Sun had this to say of the mischievous and pernicious antilynching bill:

"As the Senate went into the third day of the filibuster Tuskegee Institute reported that there were seven deaths by mob violence in 1937. The moral horror of lynch law is not measured by the number of lynchings, but assuredly even the most fervent advocates of an antilynching law can see that it is all out of proportion that the consideration of such a law should block the consideration of problems that affect the everyday lives of millions upon millions of Americans."

JACKSON, MISS. CLARION
DEC. 19, 1937 D24

A measure known as the anti-lynching bill is being forced through congress. The name of the bill is a misnomer. It is actually not so much an effort to halt the crime of lynching, but an effort to take from the states one of their most vital rights, their police power.

Every decent man or woman in the south would gladly welcome anything which would stamp out lynch law. The steady improvement in the lynch record of the south is irrefutable proof of this. According to the Negro Year Book, published at Tuskegee Institute, the average annual total of lynchings has shrunk to 13.6 for the decade ending with 1936, from 103.5 for the decade ending in 1896. This is a greater improvement than that of lynching of white men in the west and other parts of the country.

But this misnamed "anti-lynching" bill does not seek, along intelligent, co-operative lines, to help the south stamp out this most horrible crime. It seeks, rather, to invoke the federal powers to punish local enforcement officers and the entire population, innocent and guilty alike, where a lynching occurs. It even makes it financially alluring for the family survivors of the victim for the lynching to occur.

MUSKOGEE, OK. INDEPENDENT
DEC. 17, 1937 D31

TUSKEGEE CORRECTS LYNCHING TOTAL

Washington, Dec. 16—Senators from every state received this week a letter from Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., correcting the erroneous report which had been sent out over his name, without his knowledge, that there had been only 7 lynchings in 1937. Mr. Work informed the senators that Tuskegee records showed 8 lynchings. The false total which someone credited to Mr. Work was used by senators as an argument against enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

5836

More Than Denial Needed

The story reported as coming from Tuskegee Insti- to the effect that lynchings "were becoming more hu- mane" and "were rare in November and December," is one of those serious blunders which need more explana- tion than it has received.

Coming at a time when it was used as a weapon to fight the Wagner-Costigan Antilynching Bill, it may have been in too deadly a thrust to be allowed to fade out so easily.

Dr. Monroe N. Work gave out a statement denying that any such report was sent out from that institution. "The release," he says, "sent out last week concerning lynchings which was credited to me and widely quoted in both white and colored papers was not authorized by me or by Tuskegee Institute."

Well, somebody, somewhere, must have said something which gave some newspaper the information upon which this widely published and widely used "interview" was based. And it seems to us the duty of Tuskegee authorities to track it down and nail it specifically as an un-

Lynch Defenders Faked T'kee Figures On '37 Lynch Record

Die-Hards Resort To Ruthless Tactics In Desperate Effort To Defeat Senate Bill

NEW YORK, Dec. (CNA)—To their unprincipled filibuster against the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan anti-lynching bill, Southern opponents of Federal anti-lynching legislation added the faking of an interview with Monroe N. Work, director of the Records and Research Department of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., on lynching statistics for the current year, it was revealed this week.

The bill, temporarily shifted aside to permit Senate action on an Administration crop control measure, is expected to be taken up again immediately after the disposition of the farm bill, in accordance with the special order by the regular Senate session last August 12, and Southern Senators are threatening to resume their filibuster against the measure.

The faked interview with Monroe Work quoted him to the effect that lynchings were on the decrease and "were becoming more humane" and were rare in November and December." The interview was published, broadcast throughout the country by the white press and by many Negro papers, and was cited in the Senate by opponents of Federal anti-lynching legislation to back their contention that Federal intervention was "unnecessary". For example, Senator Dixie Bibb Graves, wife of the governor of Alabama, from which state the faked interview originated, utilized the concocted report to advance the claim that "lynching is rapidly decreasing" and that the Southern ruling class should be left to work out "its own problems."

In a communication to the Crusader News Agency, 415 Lenox Avenue, New York City, Mr. Work this week categorically denied that he had given out such an interview or had released lynching figures for this year or had made the statement attributed to him by white Alabama reporters that "lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December."

In reporting the use of the reputed interview as a weapon against the anti-lynching bill in the Senate, the CNA referred to the "interview" as "precipitately issued by Tuskegee Institute" several weeks earlier than customarily and during the heart of the debate on the bill. Mr. Work cleared up this point and exposed the "interview" as a fraud, deliberately engineered to bolster up the arguments of Southern opponents of the anti-lynching bill.

Fake Tuskegee Lynch Figures

OPPONENTS OF SENATE BILL USE FRAUD IN FIGHT TO DEFEAT MEASURE

NEW YORK, Dec. 4, (CNA)—To their unprincipled filibuster against the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan anti-lynching bill, Southern opponents of Federal anti-lynching legislation added the faking of an interview Monroe N. Work, director of the Records and Research Department of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, on lynching statistics for the current year.

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Mr. Work categorically denied that he had given out such an interview or had released lynching figures for this year or had made the statement attributed to him by white Alabama reporters that "lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December."

Monroe Work Denies Making Statement On Year's Lynch Record

TUSKEGEE, Dec. 9—(ANP)—A denial that either he or Tuskegee Institute released a statement widely quoted in the white and Negro press last week on lynchings this year in the United States was made Saturday by Dr. Monroe N. Work, editor of the Negro Year Book and director of the Records and Research department.

"The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers," said Dr. Work. "I did not make a statement that lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December.

"Releases from Tuskegee concerning lynchings are issued without comment over the signature of the president of the Institute. This custom was originated by Dr. Booker T. Washington and continued under Dr. R. R. Moton and Dr. F. D. Patterson.

"The statement that there have been only seven lynchings this year is incorrect anyway. Records show the number to date is eight."

Dr. Monroe Work Denies Charges

TUSKEGEE.—(ANP)—A denial that either he or Tuskegee Institute released a statement widely quoted in the white and Negro press last week on lynchings this year in the United States was made Saturday by Dr. Monroe N. Work, editor of the Negro Year Book and director of the Records and Research department.

"The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers," said Dr. Work. "I did not make a statement that lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December.

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"The statement that there have been only seven lynchings this year is incorrect anyway. Records show the number to date is eight."

LYNCH STATISTICS FALSE, SAYS DR. MONROE WORK

Tuskegee, Ala., December [illegible]—Dr. Monroe N. Work, statistician extraordinary, whose headquarters are on this campus, vigorously denied any part in any recently issued statements on the number of lynchings for the year, and stated emphatically that the figures are never given over his signature. They are always, he stated, made over the signature of the president of the college.

Dr. Work had been quoted in the white and colored newspapers with the statement that there have been seven lynchings this year and that lynchings are rapidly becoming "more humane." They were also said to have been rare during November and December in the fake statement.

Dr. Work, in denying any connection with the widely quoted statement said that "the statement that there have been only seven lynchings to date this year is incorrect; there have been eight. I did not say that lynchings are becoming more humane. Our releases are always issued without comment and over the signature of the president of our institution."

The importance of the correction was evident in the fact that the Tuskegee figure on annual lynchings is usually accepted as official, although it does not include all mob murders under its technical classification of "lynchings." When these are included the annual figures are usually nearly double those given as the technical

"lynchings" in Dr. Work's statistics. The Tuskegee figures have been issued for several years.

CORRECTED LYNCHING TOTAL

WASHINGTON — Senators from every state received this week a letter from Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., correcting the erroneous report which had been sent out over his name, without his knowledge, that there had been only 7 lynchings in 1934. Mr. Work informed the senators that Tuskegee records showed 8 lynchings. The false total which somehow credited to Mr. Work was used by senators as an argument against enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

LYNCHINGS - 1937

REPORTS ON, SENT PRE SS

REGARDING NEWSPAPER R ELEASES OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18.

5837

Dr. Monroe Work Denies Giving Newspapers Story That Lynchings Are Becoming Humane

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—Denial that neither he nor Tuskegee Institute was responsible for a newspaper story on lynching which appeared in last week's newspapers, white and colored, was made here Saturday by Prof. Monroe N. Work, editor of the Negro Year Book.

In a statement made to all newspapers, Dr. Work said:

"This is to notify you that the release sent out last week concerning lynchings which was credited to me and widely quoted in both white and colored papers was not authorized by me or by Tuskegee Institute. The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers.

"I did not make a statement that lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December.

"Releases from Tuskegee Institute concerning lynchings, as you know, are issued without comment over the signature of the president of the institution. This custom was initiated by Dr. Booker T. Washington, continued under Dr. R. R. Moton and under Dr. F. D. Patterson.

The statement that there have been only seven lynchings this year is incorrect. The number to date is eight."

SAYS HE DID NOT SAY MOBS MORE HUMANE

Tuskegee Research Director Claims He Was Incorrectly Quoted

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE —Dr. Monroe N. Work, director of the records and research department at Tuskegee institute and editor of the Negro year book, issued a statement this week denying that he had said that lynchings were becoming "more humane" and were rare during November and December.

This statement, widely publicised last week, was attributed to Dr. Work by both the white and Negro press.

Dr. Work's statement:

This is to notify you that the release sent out last week concerning lynchings which was credited to me and widely quoted in both white and colored papers was not authorized by me or by Tuskegee Institute. The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers.

I did not make a statement that lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December.

Releases from Tuskegee institute concerning lynchings, as you know, are issued without comment over the signature of the president of the institution. This custom was initiated by Dr. Booker T. Washington, continued under Dr. R. R. Moton and under Dr. F. D. Patterson.

The statement that there have been only seven lynchings this year is incorrect. The number to date is eight.

We will appreciate it if you will give this information wide publicity.

Very sincerely yours,
Monroe N. Work, Editor
Negro Year Book
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Work's Letter Says Lynching Total Is 8

November 27, 1937
Managing Editor
Scott Newspaper Syndicate
Atlanta, Ga.
Dear Sir:

This is to notify you that the release sent out last week concerning lynchings which was credited to me and widely quoted in both white and colored papers was not authorized by me or by Tuskegee Institute. The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers.

I did not make a statement that lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December.

Releases from Tuskegee Institute concerning lynchings, as you know, are issued without comment over the signature of the president of the Institution. This custom was initiated by Dr. Booker T. Washington, continued under Dr. R. R. Moton and under Dr. F. D. Patterson.

The statement that there have been only seven lynchings this year is incorrect. The number to date is eight.

We will appreciate it if you will give this information wide publicity.

Very sincerely yours,
MONROE N. WORK, Editor
Negro Year Book

Editor Scores White Press Misstatement

Tuskegee Official Says Statement Did Not Come From Him

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—In a statement denying authorship of recent press releases to the effect that he declared that lynchings had become "more humane," Monroe N. Work, editor of the Negro Year Book, this week said that the statement was "not authorized by me or by Tuskegee Institute. The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers."

Mr. Work's denial was issued through the offices of Tuskegee Institute, from which releases concerning lynchings are given out without comment over the signature of the president, Dr. F. D. Patterson. This precedent was established by Booker T. Washington and there has never been a deviation.

The statement credited to Mr. Work in the white press also stated that lynchings were "rare in November and December." Mr. Work pointed out that the press gave him credit for having but little knowledge of pertinent facts about the race with which he is identified when he corrected the actual number of lynchings for 1937.

"The statement that there have been only seven lynchings this is incorrect," corrected Mr. Work. "The number to date is eight."

Because lynchings are rare during November and December, the figure is considered complete, the 1937 total is one lower than in 1936, 12 lower than in 1935. Dr. Work said that figures kept at Tuskegee since 1882 show that lynchings have declined steadily in the past 55 years. They show that 4,672 persons—3,383 Negroes and 1,289 whites—were lynched during that period.

Dr. Work also said records of his department showed that lynchings were "more humane" today than 50 years ago, explaining that then many of the victims were burned alive—this barbarous practice being replaced by burning the victims after they had been shot or hanged.

Lynchings "Humane"? Tommyrot, Says Work

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —Dr. Monroe N. Work, director of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, has issued a denial of the story carried in the press last week to the effect that "lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December."

"The first I knew about the release was when I saw it in the daily papers," he stated, adding that releases on lynchings were always sent out over the signature of the president of the institution.

The number of lynchings to date this year is 8 and not 7, as stated in the release referred to.

Tuskegee Denies Lynching Report Was Authorized

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —Monroe W. Work, editor of the Negro Year Book, denied this week that he had authorized a daily press dispatch saying that lynchings are rare in November and December and are December [illegible]

[illegible] announced at Tuskegee [illegible] that he had not [illegible] of the widely pub[illegible] until he saw it in [illegible]

Lynching Not Humane

"I DID not make a statement that lynchings were becoming more humane and were rare in November and December," writes Dr. Monroe N. Work director of records and research department of Tuskegee Institute. According to Dr. Work, he knew nothing about the statement which was alleged to have been made by him, until he saw it in the newspapers.

We are pleased to know that Dr. Work did not make the widely publicized statement. There is no such thing as a humane lynching. Lynching is a dastardly, cowardly act. It is impossible to turn any lynching into a humanitarian service.

So far this year there have been eight lynchings. While the total number has been decreased so long as there is one that is one too many.

Lynching—1937 Style

DR. MONROE N. WORK, eminent head of Tuskegee's Department of Research and Records, has given out the statistics on lynchings in the United States for 1937. The report is considered complete for the year owing to the rarity of mob murders during the month of December, and it reveals that only seven persons have met death at the hands of mobs during the period. That number, according to the Tuskegee statistician is the lowest since the Civil War. Not only has there been an abating of mob activity according to Dr. Work during the present year, but the ferocity of the mob has somewhat mitigated—mob victims have been put to death in a more humane fashion."

Notwithstanding the fact that there are those who differ with Dr. Work as to both the number and "humaneness" of lynchings—1937 style—we thank him for his work and accept his figures as both conclusive and authentic. We do not, however, hold up the small number as a hopeful sign that America is just about growing weary of indulging of its favorite pastime. And the blow-torch lynching of two young Negroes by a Mississippi mob at Duck Hill a few months ago would tend to contradict the "more humane" statement of the erudite editor of the Negro Year Book, if it were not a known fact that not so long ago mob victims were really

But even lynchings—1937 style—are occurrences too horrible for any civilized people to boast of. There is absolutely no reason why America, the vaunted land of the free and home of the brave, should be the only country on the face of the earth where men and women are ruthlessly slain by their fellow citizens in such blood-thirsty orgies as those which characterize the activities of the American mob. No crime, however dastardly, and no matter how wantonly committed justifies mob vengeance, so long as we have courts and the machinery of law enforcement in this country. Only savagery, barbarity and a depravity unknown even to the most dense bushmen could or would justify the work of the irresponsible mob. And for this reason alone, we cannot have hope for the tranquility, prosperity and perpetuity of our beloved Americaland so long as the blood of one mob victim wets the ground and stains the verdue beneath his lifeless and often mangled form.

Let America's motto for 1938 be: "No lynchings."

Augusta Ga. Herald
November 28, 1937

TUSKEGEE STATISTICIAN ANNOUNCES LYNCHING RECORD

The New York Age says: "Records of the Tuskegee Institute show a rapid disappearance in lynch law. Monroe N. Work, satistician of the Alabama College, revealed this week that in 1937 only seven persons met death through mob violence, the smallest number in any year since the War Between the States.

"This figure which, is considered complete, due to the traditional rarity of lynchings in the months of November and December, is one lower than 1936 and twelve lower than in 1935.

"Figures kept by the Department of Research and Records at the college since 1882, disclosed that lynchings have steadily declined in the past 55 years. According to the record, 4,672 persons, 1,289 whites and 2,388 negroes, had been lynched during this period.

"Night-riding mobs which terrorized negroes, reached their peak in the Reconstruction period. In 1884 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs. Of these, 160 were negroes and 51 were whites.

"Forty-two states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. Georgia reported 515, Texas, 488, Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; and Arkansas, 286. In the North, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey one and Delaware one.

"In 55 years only 2.5 per cent of the total lynched were put to death because of alleged rape.

"More than 10 per cent of the negroes lynched during the 55 years were slain for such minor offenses as the following:

"Being a witness at a trial, writing insulting notes to white persons, insisting on eating in a white restaurant when refused service, boasting in public, strike-breaking, insisting on voting, and discussing a lynching.

TUSKEGEE CORRECTS
LYNCHING TOTAL

Washington, Dec. 10.- Senator's from every state received this week a letter from Monroe N. Work of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., correcting the erroneous report which had been sent out over his name, without his knowledge, that there had been only 7 lynchings in 1937. Mr. Work informed the senators that Tuskegee records showed 8 lynchings. The false total which someone credited to Mr. Work was used by senators as an argument against enactment of a federal anti-lynching law.

LYNCHINGS - 1 9 3 7 REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

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REGARDING NEWSPAPER RELEASES OF THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 18.

BATON ROUGE LA. STATE TIMES
NOV. 18, 1937 N23

Lynch Law Fast Disappearing in America, Tuskegee Records Show

By Thomas A. Dozier

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 18 (UP)—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing in America, records at Tuskegee Institute today showed.

While congress battled over anti-lynching legislation in Washington, Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted negro college here, revealed that in 1937, only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil war.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December—is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935's figure of 20 slain.

Figures kept by the department of research and records at the negro college since 1882 showed that lynchings have steadily declined during the past 55 years.

The statistics also showed that 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 negroes—were lynched during this period.

Peak Reached.

Night-riding mobs which spread terror into the hearts of negroes reached their height in the Reconstruction period which followed the Civil war. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs who sought to take justice in their own hands.

Of these, 160 were negroes and 51 were white.

A total of 42 states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi, in the heart of the Deep South, which reported 563 deaths.

Georgia reported 515; Texas, 488; Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343, and Arkansas, 286.

In the North, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey, 1, and Delaware, 1. Several Western states, where lynching for horse-stealing was prevalent, reported many more.

"Records show that in 55 years, only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death for the charge of rape," Work said.

"There were 1,190 persons—97 whites and 1,093 negroes—put to death on that charge, compared with 3,482 killings for other cities, thus refuting the assertion that a majority of lynchings are for rape."

Minor Offenses.

Work said more than ten per cent of the negroes lynched were slain for such minor offenses as the following:

Being a witness at a trial, writing insulting letters to white persons, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, boasting in public, strike breaking, insisting on voting, and discussing a lynching.

Work said records of his department showed that lynchings were possibly slightly more humane today than they were 50 years ago. Then, many victims were burned alive, but few such instances have occurred recently, the favorite method being to burn the bodies of victims after shooting and hanging them.

Last year's bizarre death occurred in Marianna, Fla., when townspeople became aroused over the assault and slaying of a 15-year-old girl whose body was buried in a pig-sty.

After the negro's arrest and confession, a lynching was advertised in the local newspaper for two days. Officers fled with the negro to Pensacola and from there to Brewton, Ala. The mob, trailing the sheriff in automobiles, stormed the Brewton jail and took the negro back to Marianna.

Unprecedented action was taken by the state of Alabama this year in seeking the indictment and impeachment of a county sheriff for alleged negligence in permitting a negro to be lynched.

The sheriff was acquitted in trial before the state supreme court, however, and the county grand jury refused on two occasions to indict him.

Kingston, N. C., Free Press
November 18, 1937

LYNCH LAW FAST DISAPPEARING AS METHOD BY MOBS

Statistics Show Only Seven Persons Lynched During 1937, Lowest Number Since War Between States

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 18.—(U.P.)—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing, records at Tuskegee Institute showed today.

While Congress battled over anti-lynching legislation in Washington, Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted Negro college here, revealed that in 1937, only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil War.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and Devember—is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935's figure or 20 victims.

Figures kept by the Department of Research and records at the Negro college since 1882 disclosed that lynchings have steadily declined in the past 55 years. According to the record 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes—were lynched during that period.

Night-riding mobs which spread terror into the hearts of Negroes reached a peak in the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs. Of those, 160 were Negroes and 51 were whites.

Forty two states reported lynchings during the 55-year period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi, in the deep south, which reported 563 deaths. Georgia reported 515; Texas, 488; Louisiana, 389; Alabama 343, and Arkansas 286. In the North, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey, 1, and Delaware, 1.

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Work said more than 10 per cent of the Negroes lynched during the 55 years were slain for such minor offenses as the following:

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Work said records of his department showed that lynchings were possibly slightly more humane today than they were 50 years ago. Then, many victims were burned alive, but few such instances have occurred recently, the favorite method being to burn the bodies of victims after shooting and hanging them.

Unprecedented action was taken by the state of Alabama this year in seeking the indictment and impeachment of a county sheriff for alleged negligence in permitting a Negro to be lynched.

'Lynch Law' Cases Drop

Only 7 Victims Reported For Year.

Tuskegee, Ala., Nov. 18.—(U.P.)—Lynch-law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing, records at Tuskegee Institute showed today.

While Congress battled over anti-lynching legislation in Washington, Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted Negro college here, revealed that in 1937 only seven persons in the Nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the War Between the States.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December—is one lower than in 1936 and twelve lower than 1935's figure of twenty victims.

Figures kept by the Department of Research and records at the Negro college since 1882 disclosed that lynchings have steadily declined in the past fifty-five years. According to the record, 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes—were lynched during that period.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
November 18, 1937

ANNOUNCE ONLY SEVEN SLAIN BY MOBS THIS YEAR

Is The Lowest Number Since Civil War; Statistics Over 55-Year Period Announced

TUSKAGEE, Ala., Nov. 18—(UP)—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing, records at Tuskegee Institute showed today.

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NASHVILLE, TENN. EVE. TENN.
NOV. 18, 1937 N24

RECORDS SHOW LYNCH LAW IS DISAPPEARING

Tuskegee Statistician Says 1937 Lowest Since Civil War.

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(UP)—Lynch law—the doctrine of swift extra-legal punishment at the hands of a mob for the law-breaker or the racial offender—is fast disappearing in America, records at Tuskegee Institute today showed.

While Congress battled over anti-lynching legislation in Washington Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted negro college here revealed that in 1937 only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence—the lowest number since the Civil War.

Decline is Steady.

The figure—considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December — is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935's figure of 20 slain.

Figures kept by the department of research and records at the negro college since 1882 showed that lynchings have steadily declined during the past 55 years.

The statistics also showed that 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 negroes—were lynched during this period.

Night-riding mobs which spread terror into the hearts of negroes reached their height in the reconstruction period which followed the Civil War. In 1884, 211 persons were illegally hanged, shot or burned to death by mobs who sought to take justice in their own hands.

Of these, 160 were negroes and 51 were whites.

A total of 42 states reported lynchings during the 55-year-period. The greatest number occurred in Mississippi, in the heart of the deep south, which reported 567 deaths.

Georgia reported 515; Texas, 493; Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343, and Arkansas, 226.

In the north, New York had two in 55 years, New Jersey, 1, and Delaware, 1. Several western states, where lynching for horse-stealing was prevalent, reported many more.

Causes Vary.

"Records show that in 55 years only 25.5 per cent of the total number of persons lynched were put to death for the charge of rape," Work said.

"There were 1,500 persons—971 whites and 1,093 negroes—put to death on that charge, compared with 3,433 killings for other crimes, thus refuting the assertion that a majority of lynchings are for rape."

Work said more than 10 per cent of the negroes lynched during the fifty-five years were slain for such minor offenses as the following:

Being a witness at a trial, writing insulting notes to white persons, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, boasting in public, strikebreaking, insisting on voting, and discussing a lynching.

Work said records of his department showed that lynchings were possibly slightly more humane today than they were fifty years ago.

victims were burned
w such instances have
recently, the favorite
ing to burn the bodies of
victim after shooting and hanging
them.

Bizarre Affair

Last year's most bizarre death occurred in Marianna, Fla., when townspeople became aroused over the assault and slaying of a 15-year-old girl whose body was buried in a pig-sty.

After the negro's arrest and confession, a lynching was advertised in the local newspaper for two days. Officers fled with the negro to Pensacola and from there to Brewton, Ala. The mob, trailing the sheriff in automobiles, stormed the Brewton jail and took the negro back to Marianna.

There he was shot and stabbed and hanged from a tree on the spot where the crime occurred. His body was then strung up from a tree on the courthouse lawn in Marianna.

Unprecedented action was taken by the state of Alabama this year in seeking the indictment and impeachment of a county sheriff for alleged negligence in permitting a negro to be lynched.

The sheriff was acquitted in a trial before the state supreme court, however, and the county grand jury refused on two occasions to indict him.

NEW YORK W'S HERALD TRIBUNE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19 1937

Lynching Drops Rapidly, Tuskegee Survey Shows

Death Toll in 1937 Smallest Since the Civil War

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 18 (UP).—Lynch law is fast disappearing, records at Tuskegee Institute showed today. While Congress battled over national anti-lynching legislation, Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's famous Negro college, revealed that in 1937 only seven persons met death by mob violence—the smallest number in any year since the Civil War.

The figure—considered complete, as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December—is one lower than in 1936 and twelve lower than in 1935.

Figures kept by the college since 1882 disclosed that in the last fifty-

five years 4,672 persons—1,289 whites and 3,383 Negroes—had been lynched. Forty-two states reported lynchings during that period. New York had two.

St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press

Lynching on the Wane

While Congress battles over proposed national anti-lynching legislation it is pertinent to consider the present status of lynch law in this country. Evidently it is fast disappearing.

According to a report issued by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college only seven persons met death by mob violence this year, the smallest number in any year since the Civil war. Although several weeks still remain of 1937, the figure is considered complete by Tuskegee statisticians as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December. This year's lynch law record, therefore, is one less than in 1936 and twelve fewer than in 1935. It is noted in the anti-lynching bill filibuster which is now tying in the Senate that the most vigorous arguments against the proposed legislation are made on the grounds not only of alleged unconstitutionality but also on the fact that since lynchings are becoming fewer every year the subject has not suffcient importance to occupy Senate attention.

The decline of mob murders is probably the best argument of the filibusters. Obviously if there were no lynchings there would be no need for an anti-lynching bill. A few lynchless years would reduce the subject to a mere academic question. Proponents of such legislation, however, might continue to insist on it as a protection against possible mob violence but this would be tantamount to attempting to legislate against a state of civilization.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK. NEWS
NOV. 18, 1937 D3

LYNCH LAW CASES AT LOW FOR YEAR

By United Press

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 18.—Lynch law is dwindling, records at Tuskegee Institute showed today.

Monroe N. Work, statistician at Alabama's noted Negro college here revealed that in 1937 only seven persons in the nation met death by mob violence. This was the lowest number since the Civil War.

The figure, considered complete as lynchings are extremely rare in November and December, is one lower than in 1936 and 12 lower than 1935.

KANSAS CITY, MO., JR.-POST
NOV. 26, 1937 N27

Lynching Statistics.

The predominantly political flavor of the congressional arguments over the anti-lynching bill, its comparative emptiness as a law enforcement measure, is disclosed by the statistics on lynching, which show that this crime is becoming almost negligible, even in the Deep South.

Northern Democrats in the senate and house are behind the anti-lynching bill for its effect upon the Negro vote in their states; southern Democrats are opposing it for the effect upon the white vote in their states.

The facts regarding mob law are reported by the Tuskegee institute of Tuskegee, Ala. The institute has the figures on lynching in the United States for the last 55 years and, since it is the foremost Negro college in the world, it surely would not minimize the extent of this form of lawlessness.

Tuskegee's document shows that thus far in 1937 there have been seven lynchings in the United States, one less than in 1936 and 12 less than in 1935.

But the most encouraging thing is the steady decline over a long period of years. The peak of mob killings came in the '70s, when the South was driving out the carpet-baggers and "disciplining" the Negroes. The peak year in the 55 covered by Tuskegee's records was 1884, when 211 persons were hanged, shot, burned or otherwise illegally killed by self-appointed "law enforcers."

There are several erroneous notions about lynchings. One is that nearly all of the victims are Negroes, whereas 1,289 of the 4,672 victims in 55 years were whites. Another is the assumption that most of the victims were accused of rape, whereas that was true of only 25.5 per cent of them. Many of the Negroes lynched in the Deep South were guilty of mere "impudence."

But even in the cotton states there has been a steady growth of sentiment against lynching. The state of Alabama this year sought to indict and impeach a sheriff for alleged negligence in permitting a Negro to be lynched. The effort failed through the refusal of two grand juries to act, but the fact that the indictment was sought was unprecedented. Southern newspapers, societies and individuals have been fighting the lynching evil since the war with appreciable results. The seven lynchings in the United States in 1937 are not condonable, but they nevertheless reveal that this crime is on the verge of disappearing.

But the northern politicians and their southern antagonists will continue to use their most effective adjectives on this issue. Both are counting upon the public's ignorance of the improvement which has taken place without the aid of laws.

Lynchings-1937
Side Lights.

Alabama.

5839

POSSE HUNTS NEGRO IN GADSDEN MAN'S DEATH

GADSDEN, April 29.—(Special)—A posse was searching the woods near here today for Ben Moore, 58-year-old Negro farmer, who police were told shot and killed Robert Cameron, 65, while his wife looked on yesterday.

Officers said they were told that the shooting followed a quarrel in which Moore accused Mr. Cameron of shooting at his chickens.

Lynchings - 1937
Side Lights.

Arkansas.

5840

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
May 26, 1937

LYNCHING FEARED IN ARKANSAS TRIAL

Tenant Farmers Charge Civil Liberties Denied; Ask LaFollette Aid.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 25.—(AP) J. R. Butler, president of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, wired Senator LaFollette today a request that the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee "institute a general investigation based on the hundreds of denials of civil liberties in eastern Arkansas over the past four years."

The telegram said union attorneys fear an attack when they appear at Forrest City, Ark., tomorrow to defend J. F. Hynds, national executive committee member of the union, and Melvin Swinea, a union worker, at a hearing on charges of "interfering with labor." The two were arrested yesterday after a negro road gang working on a paving job quit work.

The communication to Senator LaFollette cited what the union termed a "near lynching" when Dave Benson, a union member, was tried at Forrest City on a similar charge last year.

Butler said C. A. Standfield, a Hot Springs, Ark., attorney, will defend the men at the hearing set before Magistrate McCutcheon. The men were held in jail under bond tonight.

A second telegram was sent to Governor Bailey, of Arkansas, asking him to advise the St. Francis county (Forrest City) sheriff, "not to allow such disgraceful rioting in the Hynds-Swinea trial as occurred there under like circumstances in the trial of Dave Benson in May, 1936."

Union officials said about 200 quit but Bradford said he believed about 35 or 40 went out. He said the company paid 20 cents an hour which he said was the minimum required by the WPA. The union organizers asked 35 cents.

Florida.

Lynchings-1937
Side Lights.

5842

5842

Child Bride's Husband Flees Threats of Mob

BRADENTON, Fla., March 17.—(UP)—Police Chief S. D. Smith said tonight that a mob of citizens had gone to the home of Chandler L. Revell, 57, mill foreman at Manatee, and advised him to "leave the county and never come back."

Smith said mob violence was threatened and Revell left for an unannounced destination immediately.

Revell gained publicity this week when it was revealed that he married 12-year-old Martha Nell North last Saturday.

2 Who Vanished In Fla. Believed Lynch Victims

OCALA, Fla., July 9—(C)—Editor M. D. Potter of the Tampa Bulletin came here last week investigating the disappearance of Edward Williams, who was arrested and jailed on a charge of attacking a white woman, but was released after five days because of insufficient evidence to prosecute.

The youth was released from jail late at night, and seen to be pushed into an automobile by whites, and has not been seen or heard from since. Editor Potter says a colored teacher, a Mrs. Wiley, disappeared from Ocala about twenty years ago under similar circumstances, and nothing ever was done about it. The editor has contacted several organizations and a determined search is being made for young Williams.

POLICEMAN IS SLAIN; POSSE HUNTS NEGRO

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Aug. 7.—(UP)—A posse searched the county north of here tonight with bloodhounds for a negro who allegedly shot and killed a police man attempting to arrest him.

Louis A. Conner, veteran police officer, was fatally wounded by Will Akery, the negro, according to Detective Jack Thompson, who said the negro also fired at him. The two officers were attempting to take Avery into custody on a breaking and entering charge.

Fear For Safety Of Prisoner Removed From Florida Jail To Mystery Spot

Inhabitants Recognize Tactics Used In Claude Neal Kidnaping and Lynching.

APPALACHICOLA, Fla., May 27.—(ANP)—Although a mob was reported to have dispersed after the prisoner they sought had been supposedly removed to another jail, Negroes there this week expressed grave fears for the life of Robert Hinds, 24-year-old farm laborer, who is alleged to have "confessed" to attacking a white woman near this city. The fears were increased because of the prominence of this city in Indiana, where three years ago the "removal" dodge was used by sheriff's officers to deliver Claude Neal, another Negro, to Alabama's most sadistic recent lynch mob.

In describing the removing of Hinds to another jail, officers declare that they moved him first to Panama City, 60 odd miles away and then to another undisclosed destination. Several West Florida cities were named as possible places that the accused man may have been taken.

According to stories circulated at the time of Hind's arrest, he is supposed to have come upon two white women on the outskirts of the city, and to have frightened off one and criminally assaulted the other. That this story might contain many loopholes was brought out by old residents of the area, who pointed to a recent electrocution of a Negro in the state for a similar crime when conclusive evidence had never been presented, and the recent wave of criminal assaults by white men on their own women in sections near this one.

Whether Florida's Governor Cone, famous for his "No Negro is worth $4,000" statement, would call out adequate State forces for the protection of the suspected man was a matter of question up to Tuesday. The former governor, Dave Sholtz, refused to do so in two of the State's recent lynchings and whitewashed the third.

Posse Looks For Man Accused In Officer's Death

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—(SNS)—A posse searched the county north of this city Saturday night with bloodhounds for a man claimed to have shot and killed a policeman in an attempted arrest.

The man sought was Will Akery, who was said by Detective Jack Thompson to have fired the fatal shot into the body of Louis A. Conner, veteran police officer, and to have also fired at him. The officers were attempting to arrest the accused man on a breaking and entering charge.

Two Negroes Are Taken From Jail and Shot Dead

Florida Governor Says, 'This Was Not Lynching, It Was Murder,' and Promises Full Investigation and Prosecution of Four Unidentified Killers

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., July 20 (AP) Four unidentified white men took two Negro youths from the county jail, four blocks from the state capital, and riddled their bodies with bullets a short distance east of here early today.

The Negroes, Richard Hawkins and Ernest Ponder, each about 18 years old, were being held on a charge of stabbing Policeman V. F. Kelly Sunday morning when he attempted to question them about breaking into a store. Kelly is in a serious condition at a hospital here.

"This was not a lynching—it was murder," Governor Fred P. Cone said when he learned of the case. "I'm going to do everything I can to get whoever did this. It looks like a lot of fanaticism here by somebody. I'm going to prosecute anybody we get to the limit of the law."

Sheriff Frank Stoutamire said four men, wearing paper sacks over their heads, entered the police station about 3 a.m. and forced Night Sergeant Harry Fairbanks to accompany them to the county jail at pistol point.

Officer Bound and Gagged

Officer Fairbanks said the four men—"two stout men and two short men"—entered police headquarters about 3 a.m., poked a gun to his back and said:

"We want the jail keys and we don't want any—foolishness."

"I got up and gave them to them."

He said the men forced him to accompany them to the county jail, open the six doors necessary to get from the outside to the cells where the Negroes were held. Then they tied his arms and gagged him, and locked him in a cell block.

County Jailer Robert Maige slept through all this, Sheriff Stoutamire recounted, and knew nothing about it until later when he was awakened by Fairbanks' calls for help. The police department uses the county jail and has its own keys so it was not necessary for the masked men to awaken Maige, the sheriff explained.

Warning Placards Left

Stoutamire said Maige and Fairbanks notified him as soon as the jailer released the policeman. The sheriff said he and his deputies searched for hours for the Negroes and the captors but knew nothing of their whereabouts until a Negro woman telephoned she found the Negro youths' bodies under oak trees about 100 feet off the main Jacksonville-Tallahassee highway, three and a half miles out of town.

The officers found the bodies about 20 feet apart. Each was riddled with 15 to 20 bullet holes. Five crudely printed placards, with some of the letters "S" backwards, marked the scene of ehe double lynching. The signs said:

"His Last Crime;" "This is the Beginning, Who is Next;" "This is Your Warning;" "Negroes, Remember You May be Next;" "Warning, This is What Will Happen to all Negroes that Harm White People."

POLICE HALT KLAN IN 'RACE OF DEATH'

DYING MAN PLACED IN UNDERTAKER'S ESTABLISHMENT

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Oct. 21—Police of this winter resort city late Sunday night won a three-cornered "race of death" with members of the Ku Klux Klan and an armed mob of whites who threatened to lynch J. E. Moses, who allegedly shot down two officers.

Seriously wounded, Moses early today lay dying in an undertaking establishment in the Williams district here.

Meanwhile, hundreds of milling townsmen paraded by the doors of the establishment.

Cops Vowed To Kill Him

Moses was fatally wounded by two bullets, but local police had vowed to "get him like a dog" if they ever sighted him.

They dropped the shotgun fugitive hiding on the second floor of a frame building close by the city police blockade, while prisoners work out short prison sentences.

[illegible] a two-day race for the life of Moses [illegible] the strangest city and county police [illegible] to capture the slayer has been members of the Klan, who two nights ago marched down St. Petersburg's Main street in full Klan regalia, found the alleged killer.

Before the capture of Moses, Chief of Police E. D. Vaughn said: "We have asked the head of the local Klavern to refrain from any demonstrations and we have received their promise that they will not participate.

"But we have no assurance that klansmen . . . either as individuals or in the organized body will not [illegible] in St. Petersburg from nearby cities."

"We are using every precaution to fruistrate any Klan activities."

urday night for the slaying of Motorcycle Officer James A. Thornton and Patrolman William G. Newberry at a circus here.

The officers were wounded fatally by a Negro they ordered off the circus grounds.

Vaughn said Moses was shot while resisting arrest when discovered at a Negro dwelling, and that he was carried in a mortuary basket through a crowd that quickly gathered at the house.

The police chief said an effort was made to tear the cover from the basket until he told the crowd the Negro had been killed.

The wounded Negro was carried to an undertaking establishment, Vaughn said, and hundreds of persons streamed by the open basket for a look at the critically wounded prisoner, before Dr. R. E. Dicks, a white physician, arrived to give medical aid.

The crowd was excluded, Vaughn said, and Dr. Dicks worked behind locked doors for almost an hour in an unsuccessful effort to save the Negro.

The police chief said Moses was shot down by Detective J. Z. Stanley at the Negro dwelling when the fugitive sprang from a closet with a gun in his hand. The detective, he said, would be eligible for the $500 reward offered by the city for the capture of the double slayer. An anonymous tip led to his hiding place.

Earlier, deputies and a posse of deputized citizens used bloodhounds in a search of the lowlands for the Negro.

After Moses' death, officers remained on duty as a precaution against possible disturbance in the Negro section.

Killed by Posse

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Charged with slaying two white policemen who [illegible] him after ordering him from the circus grounds, J. E. Moses died on Monday from a hail of posse bullets.

DEATH CLIMAXES HUNT FOR NEGRO

Mob Action Previously Halted As Accused Slayer Is Spirited From House

10-18-31

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — (AP) — Death early today climaxed a grim manhunt for the Negro slayer of two St. Petersburg policemen after officials had saved him from possible mob action through a ruse.

Chief of Police E. D. Vaughn said the Negro was J. O. Moses, who was wounded and captured last night after he had been hunted since

Lynchings - 1937
Side Lights.

Georgia.

5841

NEGRO IS MISSING FROM JAIL CELL

Butler Authorities Unable to Say Whether Man Was Removed or Made Escape

BUTLER, Ga., Jan. 2 (AP)—A 19-year-old Negro, held for robbing and wounding a white man, was missing tonight from the Taylor county jail and authorities said they were unable to ascertain whether he escaped or was removed by unauthorized persons.

The prisoner, listed as Jim Welcher was charged with robbing Sam Swearington, station agent at Charing, Ga., recently of $3 in a night attack as the agent closed his depot.

Swearington, authorities said, suffered a skull fracture and has been intermittently unconscious since.

Sheriff J. M. Bone, who took office yesterday, said the man was missing from the jail when he assumed his official duties.

"Nothing was broken at the jail," Bone said.

R. C. McDuffie, Bone's predecessor, said the Negro disappeared New Year's eve. The former sheriff said that even though he and the town marshal held the only apparent keys to the jail, someone got "got in somehow."

McDuffie said he was told by other prisoners that some one came in and took away the Negro.

Both Bone and McDuffie reported no trace had been found of the prisoner. McDuffie said the Negro had admitted the robbery.

NO TRACE IS FOUND OF MISSING NEGRO

BUTLER, Ga., Jan. 3.—(AP)—Taylor county authorities reported no further trace had been obtained today of a young negro, whom they said mysteriously disappeared from the county jail three nights ago while being held for robbing a railway depot agent.

The situation brought an announcement from Solicitor General Hubert Calhoun, of the Chattahoochee superior court circuit, at Columbus, that he would begin an investigation tomorrow.

Sheriff J. M. Bone, who took office January 1, said he had been unable to learn anything of the prisoner's whereabouts following his disappearance on New Year's Eve.

The negro, listed as Jim Welcher was being held for robbing Sam Swearington, depot agent at Charing, Ga., who sustained a skull fracture when attacked at night just as he closed his station.

R. P. McGuffin, former sheriff, quoted prisoners as saying someone entered the jail and carried off the negro.

Negro Prisoner Is Still Missing

Taylor Grand Jury May Investigate Disappearance

COLUMBUS, Ga., Jan. 6 (AP)—The next Taylor county grand jury will be asked to investigate the disappearance of a Negro prisoner from the county jail at Butler, Solicitor General Hubert Calhoun, of the Chattahoochee circuit, announced here today.

Mr. Calhoun, who conducted a personal investigation into the mysterious disappearance of the Negro held in connection with the robbery and attack on a railway agent at Charing, Ga., said today he was not ready to make public any details of his inquiry. He stated he expects developments in the probe later in the week.

The Negro was found missing from his cell when J. M. Bone succeeded R. P. McGuffin as sheriff January 1. He reported the matter to Judge J. Frank McLaughlin, of the Chattahoochee circuit, who referred the case to Mr. Calhoun. Former Sheriff McGuffin said that other prisoners told him "someone entered the jail and carried the Negro off."

GEORGIA MAINTAINS HER TRADITION

It is recorded that Butler, Ga., a small town in the grand old state of injustice, discrimination and lynching of black folks, will enjoy the somewhat dubious distinction of having the honor of lynching the first black man in 1937. James Welcher, [illegible] was charged with robbing a white man of three dollars. Welcher was arrested and turned over to Sheriff R. C. Duffie.

The sheriff said that Welcher disappeared from the jail New Year's Eve and he cannot tell where he is. Sheriff McDuffie admits that no one except himself and the town marshal have keys to the jail. Other prisoners said "That some men came and took Welcher away." Of course the answer is easy to anyone who knows Southern conditions.

The plain truth is that the sheriff turned over Welcher to the lynchers. That is in keeping with customs and habits of many of the law-enforcing agencies of the South. Unfortunately, the politics of the South, for the most part, is controlled by men who do not represent the spirit of the New South.

The political, social and economic power of the South still rests in the hands of men who think in terms of the Vardemans Tillmans, Hoke Smiths and Tom Heflins. Improvements are being made, but large bodies move slowly. Any section of the country whose people spent 250 years in dodging honest work, in schooling their progeny in the art of slaveholding, in encouraging concubinage as an asset to the advancement of their social status, can hardly be expected to be so easily regimented into real civilization.

NEGRO IS REPORTED LYNCHED IN GEORGIA

By United Press.

MIDVILLE, Ga., April 29.—Chief Police L. W. Murphy said that a Negro, wanted for criminal assault at Blythe, Ga., was picked up by a group of men on the highway near here today and "probably was lynched."

Murphy said he had been advised the Negro was in this community and had gone to look for him when he was seized by the other men and forced into their car.

Victim's Lifeless Body Is Burned

The Lynching

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., May 25—(Special) — The proud state of Georgia, where President Franklin D. Roosevelt spends his annual winter vacation, this week took its place in the lynch parade beside that of Mississippi and Alabama when a mob of more than 500 men, women and children raided a local undertaking parlor and after seizing the lifeless body of Willie Reed, burned it amid wild cheering Monday night.

It was a new kind of lynching designed principally to show Georgia's disapproval of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill which is now up for passage before the United States senate.

Killed by Deputies

Reed, a farmer was arrested at Dothan, Ala., and charged with the slaying of two white women. He was being brought back here by Sheriff Catledge and a half dozen deputies, for safe keeping in the Albany jail.

While riding in the automobile, it was reported Reed was shot through the brain by one of the deputies, when he professed his innocence and said he knew no reason why he should be charged with a crime he had not committed.

Upon reaching the jail Sheriff Catledge made his report, declaring Reed had been slain when he tried to flee from the car in which he was riding. A local undertaker was ordered to take the body to his parlors.

Within less time than an hour after the body was in the morgue, the mob composed of some 200 or more persons raided the undertaking parlor, throwing bodies here and there until they had seized that of Reed.

Act Like Savages

With the cry of savages, the mob then began a procession along the principal streets with the body of Reed tied to the rear of an automobile. At the Public Square, the lynchers stopped and then speeches extolling the virtues of white womanhood" were made.

"We'll show Niggers how to treat white women," one speaker declared. Then someone shouted: "Let's take him out to the Nigger district and burn him." The automobiles moved into the Race baseball park at the edge of town and a pyre was made out of boards knocked off the fence. Five gallons of gasoline were poured on the man's lifeless body, after which it was set afire.

New Kind of Lynching

In the lynching of Reed, Georgia went Mississippi one better in its novel idea. The Mississippians, it will be recalled, used blow torches to torture its victims on April 13.

No action has been taken against the lynchers, despite the fact they are known to the sheriff and his corps of deputies.

Georgia Mob Faces Sheriff's Inquiry

Burned Negro's Body At Bainbridge Park

BAINBRIDGE, GA., May 25—(AP)—Sheriff W. J. Catledge began a personal investigation today of the burning of a negro's body here last night by a mob aroused by the slaying of two white women.

The sheriff said there would be no inquest into the fatal shooting of the negro earlier by officers who said he tried to escape while they were taking him to jail in Albany.

The negro, Willie Reed, 20, was captured in Dothan, Ala.

The mob, seizing the body from an undertaking parlor, dragged it through the streets and burned it in a baseball park.

Sheriff Catledge said the negro admitted killing the women, Mrs. Ruby Hurst, 30 and 16-year-old Vennie Mae Richards, and leaving their bodies in a secluded wooded section four miles north of Bainbridge.

Blood on Georgia courts Jail

All under Lynchings Pretended

Body Of Slain Negro Burned By Bainbridge Mob

TAKES CORPSE FROM UNDERTAKING PARLOR AND DRAGS IT BEHIND CAR TO BASEBALL PARK

Bainbridge, Ga., May 24—A mob estimated at more than 100 men entered an undertaking parlor here tonight, took the body of a man, identified by Sheriff W. J. Catledge as Willie Reed, 22, confessed slayer of two white women, and dragged it around the public square behind a procession of automobiles.

The automobiles then moved into the Negro district and to a Negro baseball park at the edge of town and a pyre was made out of boards knocked off the fence. The body was burned.

Sheriff Catledge a short time before announced that Reed had been shot and killed while deputies were taking him to an Albany jail.

He had been arrested earlier in the day at Dothan, Ala., where the sheriff said he confessed to the slaying of two women identified as Venie Mae Richards, 16, and Mrs. Ruby Hurst, 30. One of the bodies was found Sunday by farmers searching for lost cattle, the other yesterday.

Reed was shot, Sheriff Catledge said, when he suddenly wrenched open the door of the deputies' car with his hnadcuffed hands, and fled toward the woods. The car was traveling about 35 miles an hour, Catledge said.

Informed that the mob had taken the body from the undertaking establishment, Sheriff Catledge said:

"I'm mighty sorry to see this happen."

He said Reed's confession told of following the two victims down a lonely road in a piney woods tract near here.

He first felled the elder woman, he said, knocking her unconscious, and then pursued the girl about 400 yards when he felled her and attacked her. He attempted to mutilate the bodies to prevent identification of them, the sheriff said.

Russell Pope, a farmer, told the sheriff of seeing the Negro following the two women leading to the search for Reed.

Reed was captured without a battle in a loft at Dothan, Ala., this afternoon. Catledge said Dothan was the slayer's home.

Because there is no jail in Decatur county, deputies were taking Reed to the jail at Albany. Sheriff Catledge said he met his deputies and their prisoner outside of Bainbridge and that they did not bring him into town.

The sheriff said his deputies were circling on a by-road to reach Albany when Reed made his attempt to escape.

Catledge reported that Reed came to Decatur county Thursday from Baker county, where he had been employed as a turpentine worker.

Mobile, Ala., Press
May 27, 1937

Georgia Fugitive Fears 'Lynching'

BOSTON, May 27.—(UP)—A 37-year-old negro fugitive from a Georgia chain gang today begged authorities not to send him back "because they may lynch me."

The fugitive, James Cunningham, alias Eugene Wilson, was arrested Tuesday charged with being a number pool operator. He said he merely was writing down a number he intended to play in the pool.

Fingerprints disclosed his identity as the man that escaped from a chain gang at Atlanta, Ga., in November, 1924, after serving one year of a 29-year sentence for receiving stolen goods—two rugs valued at $15. Georgia authorities were notified of his arrest.

"My wife didn't know anything about my being on the chain gang until this happened," he told police. "I don't want to go back. They might lynch me."

KILLER OF 2 WOMEN DIES TRYING TO FLEE

Negro, Captured, Confessed He Murdered Pair Near Bainbridge.

5-25-37

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., May 25.—A negro identified by Sheriff W. J. Catledge as Willie Reed, captured in a barn loft at Dothan, Ala., and said to have confessed the murder of two south Georgia farm women, was shot to death late today when deputies taking him to an Albany jail said he attempted to escape.

A crowd of approximately 200 men and women later took the negro's body from a negro undertaking parlor here and carried it to a baseball park nearby, where is was burned on a pyre built of boards knocked from a fence.

Reed had been arrested in connection with the murder of Mrs. Ruby Hurst, 30, a farm worker living near Colquitt, several miles north of here, and Venie Mase Richards, 16, whose father worked on the same farm. Mrs. Hurst's body was found yesterday in a lonely piney woods tract near here, and that of the girl was discovered this morning, about 400 yards away. Both had been hacked to death. They had been missing since Friday.

The negro, also missing from his work since Friday, was traced to Dothan and arrested. Sheriff Catledge said Reed confessed he first knocked Mrs. Hurst unconscious, then pursued the girl and attacked her. He mutilated both bodies to prevent their identification, the negro said.

alias Eugene Wilson, was arrested Tuesday charged with being a number pool operator. He said he merely was writing down a number he intended to play in the pool.

Fingerprints disclosed his identity as the man that escaped from a chain gang at Atlanta, Ga., in November, 1924, after serving one year of a 29-year sentence for receiving stolen goods—two rugs valued at $15. Georgia authorities were notified of his arrest.

"My wife didn't know anything about my being on the chain gang until this happened," he told police. "I don't want to go back. They might lynch me."

Athens, Ga. Times
May 28, 1937

Georgia Fugitive Fears Lynching

BOSTON, May 27—(UP)—A 37-year-old negro fugitive from a Georgia chain gang today begged authorities not to send him back "because they may lynch me."

The fugitive, James Cunningham, alias Eugene Wilson, was arrested Tuesday charged with being a number pool operator. He said he merely was writing down a number he intended to play in the pool.

Fingerprints disclosed his identity as the man that escaped from a chain gang at Atlanta, Ga., in November 1924 after serving one year of a 29-year sentence for receiving stolen gods—two rugs valued at $15. Georgia authorities were notified of his arrest.

"My wife didn't know anything about my being on the chain gang until this happened," he told police. "I don't want to go back. They might lynch me."

Negro Slain By Deputies In Escape Effort

Had Confessed Murder Of Two White Women; Said He Assaulted One

BAINBRIDGE, GA., May 24.—(AP)—Sheriff W. J. Catledge said Willie Reed, 20-year-old negro and confessed slayer of two women, was shot and killed tonight while deputies were taking him to an Albany jail. Reed tried to escape from the deputies' car, Catledge said.

Reed was shot when he suddenly wrenched open the door of the deputies' car [illegible] toward the woods the sheriff said.

Sheriff Catledge said Decatur County deputies in the car were H. G. Pollock, R. A. Stephens and H. J. Rhame.

Bodies of the two women, badly hacked with a sharp instrument, were found Sunday by farmers searching for lost cattle. The women were identified by authorities as Vernie Mae Richards, 16, and Mrs. Ruby Hurst, 30.

Made Full Confession

Sheriff Catledge said the negro's confession told of following the two victims [illegible] woods tract near here.

He first felled the elder woman, he said, knocking her unconscious, and then pursued the girl about 400 yards where he felled her and attacked her. He attempted to mutilate the bodies to prevent identification of them, the sheriff said.

Russell Pope, a farmer, told the sheriff of seeing the negro following the two women, leading to the search for Reed.

Reed was captured without a battle in a loft at Dothan, Ala., this afternoon. Catledge said Dothan was the slayer's home.

Because there is no jail in Decatur County, deputies were taking Reed to the jail at Albany. Sheriff Catledge said he met his deputies and their prisoner outside of Bainbridge and that they did not bring him into town.

The sheriff said his deputies were circling on a by-road to reach Albany when Reed made his attempt to escape.

Catledge reported the negro came to Decatur County Thursday from Baker County where he had been employed as a turpentine worker.

Mrs. Hurst was a farm worker living near Colquitt, several miles north of here. The father of the Richards girl was employed on the same farm as Mrs. Hurst.

The girl was found about 400 yards from a secluded pond. The body of Mrs. Hurst was found on the shore of the pond located about four miles northwest of here on the Bainbridge-Newton road.

Lynchings - 1937
Side Lights.

Georgia.

5843

GEORGIA MOB KILLS BOY, 18, IN SHANTY

(Special to the AFRO)

ATLANTA—Eighteen-year-old Robert Smith fell before the blazing guns of a posse headed by peace officers, Sunday, after he had sought refuge from his pursuers in a shanty hotel, at Hahira, Lowndes County, about two hundred miles southeast of here.

Robert was trapped in the shanty after the posse had beaten the countryside. The search for him began when word was spread among cracker State farmers that he had attacked two white women.

Officers Lose Dogs

Crowds which gathered were spurred to the hunt with the warning that a "desperado" was loose. The officers leading the search were: Roy D. Smith, chief of police; W. F. Nixon, and H. C. Carson, all white.

Before the lynching, it had been bruited about in the colored sections that Robert would be shot on sight. The officers are reported to have explained after the incident that Robert broke and ran to get a weapon when the shanty was surrounded.

The mob victim's bullet-riddled body was shipped for burial to Valdosta, a short distance away.

Georgia's Second

This lynching marked Georgia's second for the year. On May 24, a mob of more than one hundred took the body of Willie Reed, previously slain by deputies as he "attempted to escape," and burned it in a baseball park. White women and girls mutilated Reed's body.

Eleven days prior to Robert's lynching, a mob raided a jail in Tallahassee, Fla., kadnaped two youths about 18, and lynched them alongside a much-traveled highway.

The Lynch League's standing at present is: Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi, two each; Alabama one.

NEGRO DEAD, TWO INJURED IN GUN FIGHT

Will Kirby, 75, Is Killed and Posseman and Peacemaker Are Wounded

MT. VERNON MAYOR IS HIT

Throng of White Men Hunting Attacker of a Woman in Montgomery County

MOUNT VERNON, Ga., Sept. 3 (AP)—Pistol bullets killed a 75-year-old Negro and wounded a peacemaker and a posseman today in a widespread hunt for another Negro charged with attacking a white woman.

Surrounded by a throng of white men, Will Kirby was shot to death on the porch of his home near Cedar Grove.

Mayor John W. Underwood, 25, enlisted by peace officers in a move to prevent violence, was struck in one shoulder by a bullet which ranged downward through his chest.

Ralph Grinstead, posseman, was wounded in an arm.

Reports of the details of the shooting were in conflict.

Special Deputy Sheriff Eustis Brady said, however, that Kirby had argued but did not fire when the white men sought to search his place for the fugitive Negro, named in a state warrant as Buddy Sharpe.

Prosecutor L. C. Underwood, father of the mayor, said his son was struck by a stray bullet while "trying to calm things down."

He said a band of men had been "roaming the country in an ugly mood" since a white woman was attacked by a Negro who fought off her husband in her home Saturday night.

Lynching Feared

"We'd been afraid of a lynching ever since," he said.

Investigators said the suspect was not found at the Kirby home. Officers reported, however, the home contained a loaded pistol, rifle and shotgun.

With Underwood and Deputy Brady were Sheriff T. G. Peterson and Deputy Sheriff M. A. Peterson, who also tried to "hold them in check."

Observers estimated 400 or 500 men were seeking Sharpe in this South Georgia area.

Underwood in Dublin Hospital

Mayor Underwood was rushed to a Dublin, Ga., hospital. His father said his condition was "pretty good" and physicians forecast his recovery, barring pneumonia.

The mayor was graduated from the Atlanta law school in June, 1935. His twin brother, Joe Underwood, is a member of the Washington staff of Representative Hugh Peterson (D-Ga.).

Peterson's home is at Alley, Ga., just east of Mount Vernon.

TWO ARE WOUNDED BY POSSE BULLETS

Mount Vernon Mayor Is Hit by Stray Shot

MOUNT VERNON, Ga., Sept. 3 (AP)—Mayor John W. Underwood, 25, and Ralph Grinstead, a posseman, were wounded and Will Kirby, negro, was killed in an exchange of gunfire today as a throng of men hunted another negro suspected of assaulting a white woman.

L. C. Underwood, Montgomery county prosecutor and father of the mayor, said his son was struck through the chest by a stray bullet while he was trying "to calm things down."

The county attorney said Kirby was shot and killed when he resisted efforts of the posse to search his house, where the hunted negro was suspected of hiding.

NEGROES HUNTED IN MONTGOMERY

One of Pair Routed by Woman Believed to Be Man Wanted in Attack Case

MOUNT VERNON, Ga., Sept. 4—Two Negroes who officers said may be the pair wanted in connection with an attack of a white woman were chased into the woods today at the point of a gun in the hands of Mrs. Earl McArthur, wife of a Montgomery county farmer.

Sheriff T. G. Peterson said the Negroes appeared at the farm house early this morning and demanded keys to the McArthur automobile from Mrs. McArthur, who was alone. He said the woman went into the house while the men waited outside. She returned with a pistol and the Negroes fled into the swamps.

Sheriff Peterson said county officers believed them to be Buddy Sharpe, wanted on a warrant charging assault, and a companion.

A posse has been searching for Sharpe since last Sunday. Sheriff Peterson said about 25 armed men and bloodhounds, directed by County Warden E. D. Burns were scouring the woods for the Negro today.

Underwood Hurt

At Dublin John W. Underwood, youthful mayor of Mount Vernon, lay seriously wounded because he tried futilely to intervene between an aroused posse and an aged Negro suspected of harboring the fugitive.

The Negro, 75-year-old Will Kirby, was killed and Underwood and a posseman struck by stray bullets when gunfire disrupted the mayor's efforts "to calm things down" yesterday at Kirby's farm home near Mount Vernon.

Versions of the shooting differed. Special Deputy Sheriff Eustic Brady said Kirby had argued but had not fired a gun. Others said the Negro fired a weapon.

Underwood was shot in the arm and back and Ralph Grinstead, posseman, was slightly wounded in the arm.

HOUNDS LOSE TRAIL OF ATTACK FUGITIVE

MT. VERNON, Ga., Sept. 5.—(AP)—Posse seeking a young negro accused of attacking a white woman called off a week's hunt today after bloodhounds apparently lost the fugitive's trail.

One negro was killed and a peacemaker and a posseman were wounded in the hunt at near-by Cedar Grove Friday. The peacemaker, youthful Mayor John Underwood, of Mt. Vernon, is in a Dublin hospital in serious condition from a bullet wound in the chest. Ralph Grimstead, the posseman, was wounded slightly in the arm.

The negro, Will Kirby, 75, died in a gunfire exchange when the posse arrived at his home searching for the fugitive named in a state warrant as Buddy Sharpe.

Posse Seeking Negro, Alleged Attacker, Quits

MT. VERNON, GA., Sept. 5.—(AP)—Posse seeking a young negro accused of attacking a white woman called off a week's hunt today after bloodhounds apparently lost the fugitive's trail.

One negro was killed and a peacemaker and a posseman were wounded in the hunt at nearby Cedar Grove Friday. The peacemaker, youthful Mayor John Underwood, of Mt. Vernon, is in a Dublin hospital in serious condition from a bullet wound in the chest.

Ralph Grimstead, the posseman, was wounded slightly in the arm.

The negro, Will Kirby, 75, died in a gunfire exchange when the posse arrived at his home searching for the fugitive named in a State warrant as Buddy Sharpe.

The mayor's father, County Prosecutor L. C. Underwood, said his son was struck by a stray bullet while "trying to calm things down."

Lynchings - 1937
Side Lights.

Louisiana.

5844

Mississippi Whites Threaten To Lynch Exhibitor Of Interracial Motion Pictures

Which Showed Abbott and Bishop Walls Eating With Ickes and McCoy Dictating to Whites Steno Confiscated.

BOGALUSA, La., Nov. 24—Violation of the "Etiquette of Race Relations in the South" almost cost of the life of J. D. Carr, smooth Chicago propagandist, last week when he was overtaken by a group of six white men and warned that he must show no more motion pictures in Mississippi of whites and blacks eating together or of white stenographers taking dictation from Negro officials.

One of Carr's lecture stunts has been to show the progress of his race on the screen. To that end he has been assembling film for several months in Chicago.

Ickes In One Picture

One of his pictures which he has been putting on the screen in this section showed Robert S. Abbott, publisher, and Bishop W. J. Walls of the A.M.E. Zion Church at the banquet table with Harold Ickes, secretary of the interior.

In another, W. T. McCoy, a former Mississippian, who is now assistant state's attorney of Cook County, Illinois, was shown giving dictation to a white girl typist.

Carr had just shown the pictures and given a lecture in a church in Poplarville, Miss., and was returning to Bogalusa, when a sedan bearing six white men drew up beside him on the outskirts of Poplarville. He was ordered to stop.

Demands Film

One of the white men who served as spokesman demanded the film with the objectionable scenes.

"Who gave you permission to show pictures of white people eating with 'N——rs' and white women writing for 'N——r' men?" he roughly inquired, adding: "We ought to hang you to a tree and tar and feather you. Give me them d——n pictures."

Mr. Carr was accompanied by the writer and by a local teacher. After he had cut out the objectionable scenes and turned them over to the white men, he was informed that he could show pictures of "N——rs" going to church, but that "you've got to cut that other stuff out if you know what's good for you."

Lynchings-1937
Side Lights.
6
6

Mississippi.

5845

POSSES SEEK NEGRO WHO KILLED OFFICER

By United Press

LAUREL, Miss., March 26.—Posses searched the red clay hills around Pachuta today for a Negro prisoner who killed Constable W. S. Burns and escaped. Details were not learned here immediately.

MISSISSIPPI POSSES HUNT NEGRO SLAYER

BARNETT, Miss., March 26.—(UP)—Southeastern Mississippi officers tonight spread their search for a young negro who assertedly climaxed a night of terror here by blasting Constable W. S. Burns to death with a shotgun.

Burns, 55-year-old Pachuta officer, was called here at reports that Otis Sims, 24, was threatening to shoot negro residents last night. When the constable attempted to arrest Sims, the latter opened fire.

Sims fled immediately. A posse was formed quickly and bloodhounds were brought out. The dogs trailed the negro five miles across the county line to Vossburg, where the scent was lost at a railway station. Officers believed the negro hopped on a freight train as it slowed up.

NEGRO SLAYER SOUGHT FOR OFFICER'S DEATH

Clarke County Constable Is Killed Near Meridian

POSSE OF 50 JOINS HUNT

Fugitive Believed To Have Boarded Freight At Vossburg Station Where Trail Ends Suddenly

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MERIDIAN, Miss., March 26.—One of the greatest manhunts for this area for years Friday had spread over eastern and South Mississippi in the search for Otis Sims, 24, negro, who shot and killed Constable W. S. Burns, 55, of Pachuta, at Barnett, Miss., south of Meridian, late Thursday night.

The fatal shooting occurred when the Clarke County official attempted to arrest the negro for carrying a gun and disturbing the peace.

A posse of 50 men, headed by Sheriff Virgil Miller, Clarke County, Lee Williams, Jasper official, of Bay Springs, and a large number of citizens of Pachuta, with the aid of J. S. Jenkins' bloodhounds, of Meridian, tracked the negro to Vossburg depot. It is thought Sims boarded a freight train at this point.

Search Most of Night

The search continued through most of the night, and Friday officers in surrounding towns entered the chase.

Constable Burns, accompanied by a negro, Ben Smith, came to Barnett answering a call from a negro who said that Sims was frightening the negroes of Barnett by dangerously exhibiting a gun.

Meeting the negro walking down the railroad tracks, Constable Burns asked him if he was Otis Sims. When the negro answered in the affirmative, Mr. Burns said, "I want to speak to you."

"Who, me?" inquired the negro.

Immediately after making this statement, the negro brought out a double-barrel shotgun which he was holding behind him and shot the official in the chest.

Officers Are Called

The negro, who had come with the constable, ran to the home of Mrs. W. L. Wallace, and Mrs. Wallace called the officers from Clarke and Jasper counties.

Mr. Burns, serving his second term, and former game warden, was well known.

He leaves his wife. Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

LONDES MANHUNT ENDS

Negro Captured In Hay Loft After 15-Day Search—Has Been Shot

COLUMBUS, Miss., Sept. 9.—A 15-day search for Henry Perkins, negro, was ended today when a posse captured him in a hay lift on the Maxwell McCrary place east of Columbus.

Possemen, armed with pistols and sawed-off shotguns, surrounded the barn and a negro was sent into the barn to tell Perkins that he was in a trap.

Upon examination officers found the negro had been shot twice, once in the chest and in the right arm. The ball that had entered the arm was still there.

A highlight in the hunt occurred Sunday when a detachment of National Guardsmen under the direction of Maj. T. B. Birdsong, head of Governor White's law enforcement squad, aided local officers.

Authorities declared that the negro would be charged with operating a distillery and assault with intent to kill and murder.

MOB LYNCHES YOUTH AT COAHOMA, MISSISSIPPI

COAHOMA, Miss., Nov. 11.—Sheriff Lee Matthews announced last night that a young Negro who had attacked him and escaped had been lynched by an armed mob.

The Sheriff said the Negro, Jesse Turner, was arraigned on a robbery charge and attacked him on the way from Clarksdale jail, escaping into a cypress break.

A member of the mob, estimated at 300 men, said the Negro was trailed to a house here and shot when he refused to surrender. The Sheriff was not seriously hurt.

POSSE SLAYS NEGRO WHO BEAT SHERIFF

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Nov. 10. (AP)—Sheriff Lee Matthews, of Clarksdale, reported late tonight that officers shot and killed Jesse Turner, young Negro who was accused of attacking the sheriff to escape a misdemeanor charge today.

Deputy sheriffs, police officers and citizens made up a posse which was instructed to "shoot to kill" if Turner resisted.

Sheriff Matthews said the negro slugged him and fled to a wooded area after he was arrested. The officer was only slightly injured.

Missouri.

5846

Lynchings - 1937

Side Lights

6

Veteran Asks Shorter Term

3-19-37

Says He Plead Guilty in 1924 to Avoid Lynching

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — An effort has been started by W. M. Collins, an ex-soldier, to obtain his freedom from the state prison here after serving nearly 13 years of a 99-year-term on charges of shooting an officer in Clinton, Mo., back in 1924.

"Collins, who served 18 months overseas, was passing through the small Henry county town in 1924 en route to California." Attorney Silas E. Garner, St. Louis lawyer, who has been retained by Collins, states, "An officer of the little town, without any charge being made against Collins and at a time when Collins was not violating any law known to Missouri statutes, attempted to search him.

"Collins pushed the officer away and the officer drew his gun. However, before he could shoot, Collins drew his weapon and shot the officer.

"The policeman did not die. Collins was charged with assault with intent to kill. The mob spirit ran high. Collins was removed to Sedalia for safekeeping. A month later, he was advised to plead guilty to prevent a lynching. The judge sentenced him to 99 years in the state penitentiary."

Collins is still in the penitentiary.

Lynchings - 1937
6
6
Side Lights.

New York.

5847

MOB ATTACKS MAN MOLESTING WOMAN

Police Save Accused From Lynching in New York Subway Station

8-20-37

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—(UP)—Public indignation against sex offenders reached a climax in a 14th street subway station today when a mob of 1,000 men and women attempted to lynch a man accused of molesting a woman.

The crowd beat and kicked the man—John Ploshay, [illegible]-year-old Queens laborer—almost unconscious before police rescued him. He was booked on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Joseph Carozza, 35, of Brooklyn, precipitated the outburst when, he said, he saw Ploshay slap the hips of a woman carrying a baby.

Woman Strikes Back.

The woman struck at Ploshay with one arm. Carozza screamed to others in the station:

"This man is a masher and a sex maniac."

Carozza grappled with Ploshay and the crowd surged forward.

Fists and feet lashed out and Ploshay went down.

"Let's hang him," someone shouted.

"Let's kill him," another voice echoed.

A woman's long nails opened a gash in the semi-conscious man's left cheek. Feet smashed down on his chest. Blood welled through his shirt.

Police Rescue Man.

Patrolman Michael Flynn entered the station and fought toward the prostrate man. He was kicked twice. He grabbed Ploshay by his coat collar and dragged him toward the wash room, fighting the mob back with fist and elbow. Two radio cars arrived with reinforcements and Ploshay was hurried to the precinct station.

Four girls, ranging in age from 4 to 9, have been killed by sex degenerates in New York city since the first of the year. A fifth died of peritonitis after a criminal at-

North Carolina.

Lynchings- 1937
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Side Lights
8

5848

LANDLORD ARRESTED ON KIDNAPING CHARGE

Fayetteville Daily News

Harnett County Man Accused By Negro Tenant of Assault and Conspiracy to Kill.

Oct 29 1937

(Special to Daily News)

Dunn, Oct. 28.—Shep Hammond, Harnett county landlord, was released from the county jail Wednesday under $3,000 bond on a charge of kidnaping Ed Covington, negro tenant farmer. He is also charged with assault, aiding and abetting and conspiracy with intent to kill.

At a preliminary hearing before Magistrate J. A. Redfern, Hammond was bound over to the Harnett Superior court.

The trouble between the landlord and tenant started several days ago when Hammond went to the negro's home after some cottonseed stored there and allegedly was ordered off the land. An argument followed, and the negro swore out a warrant charging his landlord with forcible trespass.

Monday night, according to the negro's testimony, Covington was forcibly carried from his home by agents of Hammond, under his supervision, and threatened with his life. Hammond denied the charges.

Lynchings - 1937
6
Side Lights
6

North Carolina

5849

Whiteville, N. C., News Reporter
September 16, 1937

Denies Presence Of Mob Violence

Five Defendants In Ugly And Aggravated Case Granted An Acquittal Here Yesterday Morning

Mob spirit did not prevail at Bolton on the night of September 4th when a self-styled Indian was accosted and put to flight, the court was told here yesterday morning when five young white men were acquitted of assaulting Sylvester Freeman.

Wade Dowless, Martin Lee, Earl Little, Carl Bennett and Clayton Long were acquitted in county recorder's court after an array of witnesses had paraded before the court in one of the ugliest situations which the county has seen for a long time.

Freeman, who claims to be an Indian, was the first witness on the stand, and his story was that five young men accused, along with about 'thirty other people' stormed him, put him to flight after tearing his shirt off him on the night in question.

He said that Wade Dowless, one of the defendants, accosted him as he parked under a Bolton filling station, on return from Wilmington where he had been to carry Beaman Millican, white man of South Whiteville, his three daughters, and Charlie Hewett blind guitar player, ror a radio broadcast.

Dowless grabbed him by the arm, Freeman said, and marched him to the side of the filling station, and wanted to know what he was doing "with those white people".

yrfo marto nttwhaheo snhrndnu

"Freeman claimed before he could answer, Dowless had grabbed a stick and was chasing him, and that a mob "of thirty people" pursued him.

Several corroboratives were offered by the state, but the defense offered witnesses who said they were present and saw nothing of an assault on Freeman.

On the stand Dowless admitted calling the self-styled Indian aside and asking him about his hauling the white people around but denied that he even tried to strike him, or that he used any force whatever.

The defense offered one witness, Burley Baker, garage mechanic, who said that he had seen the 14-year-old daughter of Millican riding with Freeman with her arm around him, Freeman and put on the stand and asked by the state about it, the girl, Emory Millican, stated emphatically " That's a lie".

The girl's father however, admitted that the girl was riding on the rear seat. The child colored man and another girl friend, while he himself was riding on the rear seat. The child said that she did not know that Freeman was an "Indian", and that she had been off with him in company with her father, once before .

Millican, who is a familiar figure around Whiteville, where his daughters play and sing on the streets, was severely reprimanded by the court at the conclusion of the trial for permitting any such circumstance to arise. It was in evidence that on the return from Wilmington Millican was drunk.

Ohio.

Lynchings-1937
Side Lights.

5850

CUMMINGS ASKED TO PROBE
EXTRADITION KIDNAPPING

Press Service, The Natl. A.C.P. 7-2-37

New York, July 2. Attorney-General Homer S. Cummings has been asked to investigate the report that George Thurman, a colored man living in Akron, O., was technically kidnapped by officers of the state of Mississippi and returned to Mississippi from Ohio to face a charge of murder in connection with the death of a Cleveland, Miss., police officer nineteen years ago. New York, N.Y.

The N.A.A.C.P. was advised by its Akron branch that Thurman has lived in Akron for nine years and says he has never been in Mississippi. A habeas corpus writ was filed, but was denied. Then an extradition hearing was requested, but before the request could be acted upon, officers of Mississippi spirited Thurman out of Akron and back South. The N.A.A.C.P. declared to Attorney-General Cummings that there is precedent for action by his department.

South Carolina

Lynchings - 1937
6
Side Lights.
6

5851

F. Lynchings
Side Lights

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib
December 30, 1937

NOT A LYNCHING!

In Bamberg county, South Carolina, last week the dead bodies of two negro men were found in the woods. They had been "ganged," allegedly killed by negroes. The affair, therefore, was not a lynching. Southern "lynchings" are not done except by white men. When the anti-lynching, or anti-Southern, bill pressed by the Northern "Democrats" and Republicans, shall be debated in congress—and passed—the Bamberg tragedy will provide no argument for the Harlem negroes at whose dictation the measure was introduced, in fear of whom the "Democrats" will vote for it and Franklin D. Roosevelt, president, will approve it. That the president will approve it we say because, if he were not favorable to it, he would long ago have killed it with a word—as Woodrow Wilson or Grover Cleveland would have killed it. They were Democrats (no quotation points necessary).—Charleston News and Courier.

Tennessee

Lynchings - 1937
6
Side Lights.

5852

5852

ARMED MEN HUNT PLANTER'S SLAYER

Tennessee Overseer Shot in Argument With Young Negro

HUNTINGDON, Tenn., March 9. (AP)—Armed men followed bloodhounds tonight on the trail of a 25-year-old negro accused by officers of slaying George Sanford, 45-year-old plantation overseer.

Chief of Police J. G. Carter said Sanford died from two pistol wounds in his back after an argument with a negro at the John Denny farm, near here, when the workers went to the fields this morning.

A crowd of 50 armed men searched for the fugitive during the day and many of them continued the hunt tonight.

"Sanford had some trouble with a negro named Bledsoe last Saturday," Chief Carter said. "When he went to the fields today he got into an argument with him again.

"Both men had pistols. Sanford was shot twice. He shot at the negro but I don't believe he hit him."

Lynchings-1937
Side Lights.

Texas.

5853

Lynch Mob Hunts Negro

[illegible]VILLE, Tex., Mar. [illegible]—Mob violence in this state [illegible] knew here when [illegible] or landlords' agents began a lynch-hunt for Archie Fuller, Negro tenant farmer, after severely beating the Negro's brother, Homer, and the latter's wife.

The mobsters [illegible] through pine woods north of Hallsville today in search of the tenant farmer, who is accused of killing Raymond Henderson, 35-year-old farm overseer. The mobsters first brutally attacked Homer Fuller and his wife because they wouldn't "talk" about the killing.

Henderson, following a prevailing landlord practice in the South, went to the Fullers' home yesterday afternoon in an effort to force them to work on a farm where he was overseer. He became angry because the Negro tenant farmers resisted his threats.

beaten because they refused to admit stealing cattle from a white man.

Mob Fulfils Threat

The report also included a threat, alleged to have been made by a deputy sheriff, a member of the mob, promising violent consequences to the two men if they told anyone about the beating.

Claiming that two of the mob stated that they were Texas Rangers, a relative of the men went to Austin, Texas, which is the Ranger headquarters and learned that there were no rangers stationed within 100 miles of the county in which the outrages occurred. He also promised to send a Ranger to the scene of the crime at once.

A few months ago in this vicinity, a white man was fatally wounded while beating a Negro woman, her son, charged and convicted for the man's death was sentenced to the state penitentiary at Richmond, Texas. It was necessary to seek a change of venue on the case because of the hostile feeling on the part of Waller county and Hempstead whites against the Negro defendant.

MOB ATTACKS, ONE DEAD TWO, BADLY BEATEN

Waller County Residents Are Victims of Mob After Reporting Violence

HEMPSTEAD, Texas. — Earnest McGowan, a World war veteran, was shot and fatally wounded last week when he was attacked by a mob of white men after he and another man had testified to authorities concerning a previous attack made upon them by what was believed to have been members of the [illegible]

William Tompkins, a carpenter, and his son were also severely beaten and since the assault neither have been heard from.

According to statements made by the two men, both residents of Waller county, their homes were entered by the mob and they were

LYNCHING THREAT MADE TO MANAGER OF CHICK WEBB

Houston, Texas Cop Riled Over White Man Serving With Colored Orchestra

Houston, Aug. 12—(By John H. Thompson for ANP) [illegible] interview here last night, [illegible] Webb and his orchestra played before a crowd of 2400 white and colored dancers, Frank Herz, white, Charlottesville, Va., road manager for Webb, charged a Houston cop with a threat to lynch him.

Stopped by the cop on a minor traffic violation, Herz stated the officer noted his New York license and asked him what he was doing so far from home. He then told the cop that he was manager for Chick Webb. Herz alleged that the officer then bluntly declared that he "ought to be lynched for traveling with that bunch of [illegible]." He was given a ticket and on going to pay it told the judge of the treatment at the hands of the cop. The judge apologized for the officer and offered to remit the fine, but his offer was refused.

Another member of the orchestra complained of unusual treatment while here. Bardu Ali, baton wielder, drives a $3,000 automobile; he drove it from his lodging place to the hall where he was to play. Noting a parking lot next door, he drove in. He was refsued permission to park by a white employe, who, incidentally gets $12 per week. He claimed the man said "Niggers are not allowed to park here unless they are driving for a white man."

The police department here has been under fire of various agencies for some time. Charges of inefficiency, lack of intelligence, and other charges have been filed. Recommendations for the establishment of a police school have been ignored by city officials.

LABOR LEADER 'TARRED' BY DALLAS MOB

Texans Ired By Film Showing Negroes and Whites In Picket Line

8-22-37

DALLAS. — (ANP) — Soon after he had shown a labor film Monday night in which Negro and white women marched together in a picket line, Herbert Harris, 47, white, Socialist party organizer, was kidnaped by a group of hoodlums who raided the labor meeting, oiled and feathered and dumped him from an automobile on a main street.

'Get Back Up North'

"Get back up North," shouted the abductors.

There were about 20 [illegible] in the mob that invaded the park where the meeting was in progress. They overturned Harris, auto, which carried a projection machine. The audience of 200 scattered as the organizer was rushed into an auto and taken into the country where his outer garments were torn off and and crude oil and feathers splashed over him.

Harris was uninjured and after being returned here, joked and talked with newsmen about the kidnaping as he posed for pictures.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
August 13, 1937

Labor And The South.

There appeared on the first page of this newspaper yesterday a small picture of Herbert Harris of New Haven, Missouri, wearing a coat of tar and feathers. A mob in Dallas, Texas, stripped Harris, tarred and feathered him, and then dumped him from an automobile in a downtown section of the city after he had shown a film pleading the cause of organized labor.

Whether Harris represents the American Federation of Labor or the Committee for Industrial Organization was not explained, nor was there any statement as to who was supposed to have made up the mob. If Harris is a radical labor agitator, and his film was calculated to cause trouble, one can understand the resentment of many people of Dallas. But there could have been no justification for the mob's mistreatment of him.

People of some parts of the South suffer from a cotton-plantation complex handed down from ante-bellum days, when the plantations were worked by Negro slaves. Slaves were property, they were owned by planters and others, and of course were paid no wages. They were housed and fed and clothed by their masters, which is to say they were supported as other "livestock" was supported. And to this day in most of the South colored people are expected to work for less than white people.

Not only that, but the South has remained a low-wage section for many classes of workers, regardless of color. It is a section many of whose employers are as hostile to organized labor as Henry Ford or Tom Girdler. But the South is rapidly becoming industrialized and its workers are becoming wage-conscious, so to speak. They are beginning to demand as good wages as are paid for the same kind of work in other sections, and to insist upon the right to organize for their own protection and advancement.

Southern employers had as well recognize that fact and make up their minds to become reconciled to it. The industrial progress of the South and the bright promise for continued and increasing industrial devolopment is a boast of its newspapers. This section apparently is entering upon an era of great prosperity, and the working classes must have a fair share of the benefits. Those whose prosperity is made possible by their workers must not expect to keep all of the profits. The cotton-plantation regime, and the conditions that obtained under it, are a thing of the past. And the time will soon come when a labor representative, whatever organization he may represent, can visit any part of the South and plead the cause of organized labor without being tarred and feathered.

Lynchings- (Carried Forward.)
States,— Special Information About, Particular.

5512

Anniston, Ala. Star
April 7, 1937

Triple Lynching By Piedmont Ku Klux Prevented Massacre

ONE OF THE MOST interesting tales in the vague history of Piedmont concerns a lynching by the Ku Klux Klan to prevent a Negro insurrection.

James Luke, a carpet-bagger, was located at Piedmont in the guise of a missionary and teacher. In his classes of Negroes, it was alleged that he taught the newly freed slaves to be "uppity" with their former owners. It is further said that he planned an uprising in the summer of 1870.

While the white people were in their churches praying, according to the present version of the plot, the Negroes were to fall upon and massacre them.

One Negro, remaining faithful to the whites, carried the message to the Methodist Church. The warning spread and in a short time the Ku Klux Klan was on its way to nip the uprising before it could get under way. They caught Luke and two of his Negro aides.

The trio was hung Sunday night, July 11, 1870, to a tree that stood for many years as a warning against similar action by carpet-baggers or Negroes. Then the gallows tree was cut down to make way for the Piedmont-Gadsden Road, according to reports.

One member of the Klan that staged the lynching is reported still living at Piedmont.

The story that railroad shops located near Piedmont at place known as Patoma were moved afterward because of the Luke lynching is denied by Miss Alice Craige, teacher at the high school and an authority on Piedmont history.

Shelbyville, Tenn. Times
April 16, 1937

Lynching On Shelbyville Square 45 Years Ago

The Bedford County Times of July 1, 1892, contained a two column article describing the lynching of Wm. Bates in the court yard on Monday before, by a mob that came from the vicinity of Rowesville and from Normandy and Tullahoma that morning. Bates had brutally murdered his wife at their home near Rowesville on Friday before for refusing to shield his father, Scott Bates, then in jail here on the charge of stealing mules in Lincoln county. Mrs. Bates was assailed by her infuriated husband in a clover field near the house, having gone to the garden for vegetables for dinner, and was slashed with wounds about the shoulders, face and neck as she attempted to escape to the house, the frenzied man using a rail to finish the inhuman murder of his wife. Young Bates was brought to Shelbyville and lodged in jail following the verdict of the coroners jury fixing the guilt of murdering his wife on him.

The mob arrived in Shelbyville Monday morning on the train due here between 10 and 11 o'clock and there were a hundred or more of them as they marched directly from the depot to the jail. Sheriff Moore surrendered the prisoner, Will Bates, on demand of the mob, and they marched hurriedly from the jail up the hill to the courthouse, having Scott Bates, Will Bates father, whom the most of the mob were for hanging also. At the west gate to the court yard the men halted, under the "heaven" tree that stood close to the gate and both men had nooses fastened around their necks and were drawn up, a number of citizens protesting against the hanging of the elder Bates, and one of the men cut the rope around his neck as he was drawn up, releasing him and he fell to the ground, and after wrangling a minute or two it was decided that the hanging of young Bates, who alone did the deed of murder, was sufficient expiation for the inhuman deed.

There was great excitement about the square that day and hundreds witnessed the hanging of Bates, though no one of dozens who looked on while the mob did their work could ever be found to testify in court as to the identify of a single participant in the lynching. That long ago and most of those who witnessed the scenes enacted on the occasion have passed beyond this vale of tears.

Lynchings-1937
Total by Years.

5511

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
January 31, 1937

Lynchings Found Declining

According to the World Almanac 4,681 persons were lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1935. The following table shows a steady decline in the number of lynchings since 1900.

Lynchings in the United States Since 1900.

1900	115	1918	64
1901	130	1919	80
1902	92	1920	60
1903	99	1921	62
1904	83	1922	57
1905	62	1923	33
1906	65	1924	16
1907	60	1925	17
1908	97	1926	30
1909	82	1927	16
1910	76	1928	11
1911	67	1929	10
1912	63	1930	21
1913	52	1931	13
1914	47	1932	8
1915	73	1933	28
1916	54	1934	15
1917	50	1935	20

Drop In U. S. Lynch Death Toll Is Noted

Advertiser

Changed Attitude Given Credit By Tuskegee President

2-27-37

Tabulation Made

Montgomery

Dr. F. D. Patterson Asserts 90 Per Cent Decline Since 1887

By LEROY A. SIMMS

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Feb. 20.—(AP)—A 90 per cent decrease in lynchings in the United States since 1887 was credited today by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, to "growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people."

A tabulation of lynchings by decades, from the Institute's department of records and research, listed 1,583 mob victims in the 1887-1896 period, and 181 in the 1927-1936 period.

Each decade since the first revealed a decline in mob action. Lynchings were recorded as 1,030 for the decade beginning in 1897; 670 for that beginning in 1907, and 463 for the 1917-1926 period.

Three Major Factors

Dr. Patterson listed three major factors as contributing to the decline.

The first he gave as the tendency for frontier characteristics in the South to disappear. Lynching, he said, was a special characteristic of the frontier in America, both in the West and in the South.

Second, the breaking down of isolation in the South by increased facilities, such as rural free delivery, more telegraph offices, more telephones in small towns and rural areas, and the advent of the radio and paved roads.

As the third and one of the most important, he gave "increasing agitation within the South against lynchings. This sentiment has expressed itself in the increasing efforts to prevent lynchings."

1914 To 1919

"From 1914 to 1919, the number of persons lynched was much greater than the number of persons prevented from being lynched. From 1920 to the present, the number each year prevented being lynched has greatly exceeded the number lynched."

"These facts and trends seem to indicate unquestionably that there will continue to be a decline in lynchings in the United States. Not only in these statistics but in many other ways is there implied a growth in the humanitarian attitude of the American people.

"This growth, I believe, has paralleled the development of educational and social agencies, all of which bid fair to rid this nation of the barbaric practice of lynching."

A table, from the Institute's department of records and research, lists 231 lynchings in 1892, of which 162 were negroes. Succeeding years show lower totals, with 1932, with eight, and 1936, with nine, as the lows.

Homicides Lead

Of the 4,673 lynchings recorded, homicides were blamed in 1,921 cases; felonious assault in 198; rape in 908; attempted rape in 282; robbery and theft in 227, insult to white persons in 81, and miscellaneous causes or cause unknown in 1,056.

Miscellaneous causes included being a witness, writing insulting notes, improper conduct, insisting on eating in a restaurant when refused service, discussing a lynching, misleading mob, enticing servant away, insisting on voting and gambling.

Mississippi was ranked first for 563 lynchings since records were started in 1882. Georgia ranked second with 515, and Texas third with 488, of which 143 were whites. Following came Louisiana, 389; Alabama, 343; Arkansas, 286; Florida, 272; Tennessee, 247; Kentucky, 209; South Carolina, 158; Oklahoma, 123, and Missouri, 121.

Other States

Other States, listed alphabetically, follow:

Arizona, 29; California, 43; Colorado, 68; Delaware, 1; Idaho, 20; Illinois, 31; Indiana, 47; Iowa, 19; Kansas, 54; Maryland, 29; Michigan, 8; Minnesota, 9; Montana, 84; Nebraska, 57; Nevada, 6; New Jersey, 1; New Mexico, 36; New York, 2; North Carolina, 98; North Dakota, 16; Ohio, 26; Oregon, 21; Pennsylvania, 8.

South Dakota, 27; Utah, 8; Virginia, 99; Washington, 26; West Virginia, 49; Wisconsin, 6; Wyoming, 35.

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont were listed as having had no lynchings since 1882.